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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE OIL PROJECT  
PUBLIC MEETING

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Bob Bowers Civic Center  
3401 Cultural Center Drive  
Port Arthur, Texas 77642  
Monday, September 26, 2011

The public meeting commenced at 4:50 p.m.,  
Maryruth Coleman and Greg Maggio, presiding officers.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. MAGGIO: Ladies and gentlemen. Ladies  
3 and gentlemen. We're going to start here pretty  
4 quick.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Good afternoon, everybody.  
6 We're going to be starting. So if you could take  
7 your seats.

8 Good afternoon. My name is Maryruth  
9 Coleman. I'm from the U.S. Department of State in  
10 Washington, D.C. My colleague, Greg Maggio, also  
11 from the U.S. Department of State and I are here  
12 today to listen to your comments regarding the  
13 national interest determination for the proposed  
14 Keystone XL Pipeline.

15 On behalf of the Department of State, we  
16 would like to thank you for joining us at this public  
17 meeting in Port Arthur. We recognize that this is an  
18 important -- this proposed project is an important  
19 issue and we value your input.

20 We would also like to thank the Bob Bowers  
21 Civic Center for agreeing to host this meeting.

22 The purpose of this gathering is for  
23

1 members of the public to express their views on  
2 whether issuing a permit for the proposed Keystone XL  
3 Pipeline is in the U.S. national interest. To focus  
4 time and attention on your comments we will be  
5 listening to your views and we won't be doing  
6 question and answer at this meeting or any of the  
7 other public meetings that are being held in South  
8 Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and  
9 Washington, D.C.

10 We appreciate the interest of everyone in  
11 the room to take the time to share your perspectives  
12 about this issue. We take your comments seriously  
13 and we will consider them carefully.

14 Given the interest in this issue it may  
15 not be possible for everyone in attendance to speak.  
16 If you do not have that opportunity you can provide  
17 your written comments on the back of the sheet of  
18 paper that was handed to you before you came into the  
19 room and you can leave those at the table in the back  
20 of the room or submit written comments by fax, e-  
21 mail, or online.

22 We understand that there are strong views  
23

1     and feelings about this issue. This is an  
2     opportunity to express those views. But we ask you  
3     to respect the procedures we have established so that  
4     we can hear from as many people as possible.

5                 We ask this audience to be fair and  
6     respectful to everyone who has taken the time to come  
7     here and who rises to speak.

8                 Before we begin we would like to describe  
9     the Department of State's role in the Presidential  
10    permitting process and lay out the ground rules for  
11    participating in the meeting.

12                In September 2008 TransCanada Keystone  
13    Pipeline L.P. filed an application for a Presidential  
14    Permit for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline.  
15    Executive Order 13337, signed on April 30th, 2004,  
16    delegates to the Department of State the authority to  
17    issue a Presidential Permit for facilities such as  
18    the Keystone XL Pipeline that cross the U.S. border.\

19                In considering a permit the Department of  
20    State determines whether allowing the border crossing  
21    is in the U.S. national interest, taking into account  
22    environmental and safety issues, as well as energy

1 security, foreign policy, and social and economic  
2 concerns.

3 In addition to the executive order, the  
4 Department of State determined that because of the  
5 importance of this pipeline -- of the proposed  
6 pipeline, that it should evaluate the pipeline's  
7 possible environmental and safety impacts consistent  
8 with the National Environmental Policy Act.

9 As a consequence, the State Department  
10 prepared an Environmental Impact Statement -- we call  
11 it EIS -- to evaluate the proposed pipeline's  
12 potential environmental and safety impacts. In  
13 preparing the EIS over the past two and a half years,  
14 we have conducted some 41 public meetings along the  
15 pipeline route and in Washington, D.C. to gather  
16 comments in developing the scope and draft of the  
17 EIS.

18 On August 26th, the State Department  
19 released the final Environmental Impact Statement,  
20 which addresses the more than 250,000 comments  
21 received during the public comment period. The final  
22 EIS is just one factor considered on the permit -- in  
23

1     the review process. It does not represent a final  
2     decision on the permit application.

3             Now as we move into the national interest  
4     determination, the Department of State is compiling  
5     additional information to determine if this proposed  
6     project is in the national interest and to decide  
7     whether or not to issue or deny the permit.

8             Let me talk about a few rules of order,  
9     just to go over them one more time before we begin to  
10    listen to your comments. In order to maximize public  
11    participation and to be fair to meeting participants,  
12    we ask that you abide by some important rules of  
13    order.

14            We hope to have the opportunity to listen  
15    to everyone who wants to speak. And therefore we ask  
16    that you limit your comments to three minutes.

17            As I said before, it may not be possible  
18    for everyone in attendance to speak. And you can  
19    make your comments on the back of that paper and  
20    submit it at the back, or there are instructions on  
21    how to submit your comments online, by fax, or  
22    sending it in however you would like.

23

1                   We will consider all such comments with  
2   equal seriousness.

3                   Speakers will make their comments on a  
4   first come-first served basis by assigned number,  
5   having signed in personally at the door. After a  
6   speaker ends, the next number and name will be  
7   called. As you see, we have two microphones, so it  
8   would be good if, after one speaker is about  
9   finishing, the other one comes up to the other  
10   microphone. And we have a gentleman sitting here in  
11   the center. He has a card, and he will help the  
12   speakers to kind of gauge where they are in their  
13   three minutes and give them an opportunity to wrap up  
14   their point when they are reaching the time limit.

15                  We respectfully request that you finish  
16   your comments in the allotted time.

17                  So all oral and written comments will be  
18   considered as part of the official record of decision  
19   and will be reviewed by the Department of State  
20   during the decision-making process.

21                  All comments made here will be transcribed  
22   by a Court Reporter, this gentleman over to my left.

23

1                   Written comments will be accepted until  
2   October 9, 2011.

3                   Department of State officials are here to  
4   listen to your comments so that they can be  
5   considered. We will not be engaging in a question  
6   and answer period.

7                   We request that there be no displays or  
8   signs posted. We request that you keep your remarks  
9   concise and be respectful to others. Please turn off  
10  cell phones or set them to a silent setting.

11                  We plan on ending the meeting at 10:00  
12  p.m.

13                  Again, we want to stress that the  
14  Department has not made a decision on this matter.  
15  You may see from time to time Greg or myself exit the  
16  stage for a little break. I hope you understand over  
17  the length of this meeting. But please be assured  
18  the other is remaining here to listen to your  
19  comments.

20                  We thank you for your interest and for  
21  coming to this meeting.

22                  Now we wanted to start first with a few  
23



1 representatives of local officialdom. And they are  
2 gathered here and wanted to make a few comments. And  
3 then we'll open up to the numbers consecutive.

4 So I'd like to call on Mr. Randy Weber,  
5 State Representative, District 29.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Please proceed.

7 MR. WEBER: Are we on? Testing: One,  
8 two.

9 VOICE: That mike is not on.

10 MR. WEBER: Testing: One, two. All  
11 right. The mike on the right.

12 Okay. My name is Randy Weber. I am  
13 currently a state Representative from Missouri  
14 County. And fyi, I'm running for Congress for this  
15 area, so this event is very, very important to me.  
16 The pipeline is very, very important to me.

17 Maryruth, you said in your opening remarks  
18 that the purpose of this hearing was to focus on the  
19 question: Is the pipeline in the U.S.'s national  
20 interest? I'm here to tell you that it is in the  
21 U.S.'s national interest.

22 The things that make America great are the

23

1 things that America makes. To do that, we need a  
2 solid, dependable, affordable energy source. Right  
3 now too many things are being made across the oceans,  
4 are not being made in America. We've got to get to  
5 making things in America.

6 The pipeline has been thoroughly vetted.  
7 You said that the FEIS, the Final Environmental  
8 Impact Statement is in. They gave it a clean bill of  
9 health that the pipeline is not going to adversely  
10 affect the environment. So my question is: With us  
11 needing more energy and America needing energy  
12 independence, we need this kind of pipeline. Why  
13 wouldn't we want the more jobs in this downturn of  
14 our economy?

15 And let me say this: When disasters  
16 happen around the world -- and it doesn't matter  
17 whether it's a hurricane, whether it's a tsunami,  
18 whether it's an earthquake -- when the world dials 9-  
19 1-1, who is it that answers? It's the American  
20 people, isn't it? We do answer; we do help and serve  
21 the entire world when there's disasters. For the  
22 world to be stable, in my opinion, the world has to

1     have a strong, stable America.

2                     Now let me wax eloquent for a minute  
3     because I am a Texas state representative. For us to  
4     have a strong, stable America we have to have a  
5     strong Texas. This pipeline will help us continue to  
6     build a strong America. It will be a way out of the  
7     recession. It will create jobs; it will create a  
8     strong Texas. And I strongly urge and will tell you  
9     that this pipeline is definitely in America's best  
10    interests.

11                    Thank you very much.

12                    MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

13                    (Applause.)

14                    MS. COLEMAN: I would next like to  
15    introduce Mr. Brent Weber, Commissioner, Road and  
16    Bridge Precinct Number 2.

17                    MR. WEBER: Thank you for allowing me to  
18    be here today and speak. My name is Brent Weber.  
19    I'm Commissioner of Precinct 2 here in Jefferson  
20    County. And I, along with some other colleagues,  
21    urge the State Department to approve this project for  
22    a couple of simple reasons.

23

1           One, it's been said that in some of the  
2   reports, you know, pipelines are the safest way to  
3   transport the oil and other materials. But thirdly,  
4   we need to become dependent on our own resources,  
5   developing our own resources and not being dependent  
6   upon foreign energy. And have that where we can reap  
7   the benefits from it here through jobs and through  
8   the crude that will come our way to support our local  
9   refineries.

10           We know what we're doing here. We've been  
11   doing it since the thimbletop. So let's just  
12   continue to do it.

13           Thank you.

14           MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

15           (Applause.)

16           MS. COLEMAN: Next I would like to call to  
17   the microphone, Mr. Craig McNair, County Judge.

18           JUDGE MCNAIR: Thank you for the  
19   opportunity. I'm Craig McNair, Liberty County Judge.

20           And I'd just like to say in the day of the  
21   economy where we're looking for shovel-ready jobs and  
22   we're looking for employment for our citizens, this

23

1 project appears to stand ready to go. And echoing  
2 what our other representatives said, our security,  
3 our national interest is best served when we take  
4 care of ourselves and have our own oil production.

5 And I believe that even though the  
6 pipeline barely passes through Liberty County, what I  
7 have to look at for our citizens, many of the  
8 citizens in Liberty County work in the surrounding  
9 refineries. And it very much would help with our  
10 economic base and help provide livelihood for  
11 citizens that are looking for jobs.

12 And let's never forget the fact that when  
13 you take care of the people right here, that's the  
14 important thing. We can look around, like -- I can't  
15 remember the other representative's name -- but when  
16 he was pointing out the fact that the world looks to  
17 us for support; well, this is the time to take care  
18 of ourselves so that we can help support the world.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
20 comments.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Next I would like to call to  
23

1 the microphone Mr. Jeff Brannick, Jefferson City  
2 Judge.

3 JUDGE BRANNICK: I am Jeff Brannick. I'm  
4 the Jefferson County Judge. And Jefferson County is  
5 the county where you're sitting today.

6 Jefferson County is -- I don't think I can  
7 stress enough the importance of Jefferson County's  
8 role in the provision of energy in the United States.  
9 We provide about a little over 20 percent of the  
10 refined gasoline sold east of the Rocky Mountains.  
11 We supply a higher percentage of the diesel fuel  
12 that's sold in the United States. We supply  
13 approximately 50 percent of the aviation fuel sold in  
14 the United States, and more than 70 percent of the  
15 military aviation fuel.

16 Within just a few miles of where you're  
17 sitting we host about 40 percent of the nation's LNG  
18 supply. And within about 30 miles of where you're  
19 sitting we have over 40 percent of the nation's  
20 strategic petroleum reserves. So I don't think that  
21 I can over-emphasize the importance of this area  
22 insofar as the provision of energy to the rest of the  
23

1 nation.

2           Now back in the early 1900s Texaco and  
3 Gulf Oil were founded here in Port Arthur, Texas. A  
4 hundred years ago, 110 years ago, those refineries  
5 were running on crude. As we sit here today they're  
6 still running on crude. And in the future they're  
7 going to continue to run on crude. And the question  
8 in my mind is: Are we going to import that crude from  
9 a country who has long been an ally of this nation, or  
10 are we going to import it from more unstable sources?  
11 There are two ways that crude is going to make its  
12 way into Port Arthur and Beaumont, Texas: It's  
13 either going to be water-borne or it's going to be  
14 pipeline-borne.

15           We have 100 years of history to show that  
16 we can safely run pipelines here in Jefferson County.  
17 We've done so without any major accidents over the  
18 years. I'm confident, after many, many hours of  
19 studying both the pros and cons of this issue, that  
20 this is the right move for us to make.

21           I know one thing is for certain: That is  
22 that these oil sands will be exploited. They'll

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1     either be exploited and shipped via pipeline down  
2     here to Jefferson County where we can provide a  
3     source of jobs here in the United States, or they're  
4     going to build a pipeline to the west coast of Canada  
5     and ship it to the Chinese. I'd much rather have  
6     those oil products come to Jefferson County where we  
7     can provide jobs and where we can continue with  
8     America's energy independence.

9                     Thank you.

10                    MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
11     comments.

12                    (Applause.)

13                    MS. COLEMAN: I'd like to call to the  
14     microphone now Mr. Allen Ridder, State  
15     Representative, District 21.

16                    MR. RIDDER: Is this the right mike now?

17                    MS. COLEMAN: That's fine.

18                    MR. RIDDER: Thank you.

19                    My name is Allen Ridder. I'm State  
20     Representative of District 21, which is located  
21     mostly in Jefferson County and includes where this  
22     building is today and a lot of where the pipeline  
23



1 will go.

2 I do want to thank the State Department  
3 for holding this hearing here to allow our citizens  
4 to come voice their opinion. I think that it's very  
5 important for us to be able to do it.

6 I'm here to voice my support in support of  
7 Keystone XL project. And previously myself and many  
8 legislators in Texas have already sent documentation  
9 in favor of this support. But I'm here to just add a  
10 few comments to highlight my support.

11 This project, as Judge Brannick has said,  
12 has received a lot of attention. And I, too, have  
13 listened to both sides of this debate and talked at  
14 length with local leaders and constituents on what  
15 this project means for my area. But at the end of  
16 the day I believe that this project is the right  
17 thing to do. It will promote economic development  
18 for this region and strengthen our energy resources  
19 on this continent.

20 Now as Chairman of the House Committee on  
21 Natural Resources, I'm very interested in the  
22 potential negative impacts on the Texas environment.

23

1 I've had a keen interest mostly in protecting our  
2 water resources.

3 Now the environmental impact statement has  
4 recognized the challenges involved and recommended  
5 strategies to address potential problems. I believe  
6 the environmental concerns associated with this  
7 project can be mitigated through safety measures and  
8 regulations that are already in place in this state.

9 At a time when we want to grow jobs and  
10 shrink our dependence on unstable foreign oil, the  
11 project has the ability to do both. I believe it  
12 will boost our region and should receive the  
13 Presidential Permit needed to move forward. And I  
14 urge the administration to support Keystone XL  
15 Pipeline.

16 Thank you so much.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: And I believe that concludes  
20 the comments by the local representatives.

21 The person who has the number one, could  
22 they please go to the microphone and state your name

23

1 and your affiliation, please. Thank you.

2 MR. REED: Thank you.

3 My name is Jack Reed. I'm with the  
4 Midwest Region of the Laborers' International Union  
5 of North America.

6 I want to congratulate the State  
7 Department for holding these hearings. And I want to  
8 take the time to congratulate all the citizens who  
9 have turned out today to express their opinion on  
10 this pipeline.

11 I'll be brief.

12 We support the Keystone XL Pipeline for  
13 three basic reasons: Because the pipeline will  
14 create good family-supporting jobs at a time when we  
15 desperately need them. We believe that building the  
16 pipeline is a reasonable thing to do because it will  
17 create jobs now and reduce our dependence on oil from  
18 hostile regimes.

19 We believe in protecting the environment.  
20 And that's why we're glad the government is  
21 conducting a thorough exhaustive review to make sure  
22 this project is safe, because we know once the review  
23

1 is completed we'll be one step closer to creating  
2 thousands, 20,000 good family-supporting jobs in this  
3 country at a time when we desperately need them.

4 And in closing, I just want to say this:

5 Many times we talk about statistics. But  
6 when you think about statistics, it's really about  
7 the people behind the statistics. So when we're  
8 talking about creating 20,000 jobs, we're talking  
9 about helping 20,000 everyday working Americans.  
10 That's who we represent, and that's why we're so  
11 pleased to stand behind this project.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. So then would the  
16 person with number two please go to the microphone  
17 and state your name and affiliation. Thank you.

18 MR. PETTY: Good afternoon. My name is  
19 Bobby Petty. I'm with Veterans for Keystone XL.

20 I was talking today and had a chance to  
21 talk with a lot of veterans who are here in the  
22 audience with us. We all have different and unique

23

1     perspectives. My perspective was I was a veteran; as  
2     a veteran, as an active-duty military, I was aircraft  
3     commander on the KC-10.

4             For those of you who don't know, the KC-10  
5     is the largest air-refueler in the world. It can  
6     carry 350,000 pounds of gas and can give gas -- can  
7     transfer gas up to three aircraft simultaneously.

8             I saw firsthand how important, how vital  
9     readily available oil is -- and oil products is to  
10    our national security, our ability to -- forward  
11    peace-keeping efforts, and to help with humanitarian  
12    efforts as they're needed.

13            The U.S. Air Force used two billion -- I'm  
14    sorry, three billion pounds of jet aviation fuel last  
15    year. Think about that. Three billion pounds  
16    worldwide to support the Army, the Air Force, the  
17    Navy.

18            The Navy is the largest single user of  
19    diesel fuel in the world. Now where they've made  
20    very important strides in the use of bio-diesel,  
21    about one-fifth of that now -- so one-fifth of their  
22    diesel comes from bio-diesel, there are some very

1     inconvenient truths that still exist.

2                   You cannot put a windmill on a jet  
3     fighter. You can't put a solar panel on a submarine.  
4     You can't run an M-1 Abrams tank on bio-diesel. And  
5     the last time I checked, there are no, if any,  
6     charging ports for an electric-powered Humvee in  
7     Kabul, Afghanistan.

8                   The U.S. military has made great strides  
9     in the President's goal of being petroleum-free by  
10    2030. But that's 19 long years away. In the  
11    meantime the fixed costs of protecting Middle Eastern  
12    oil is nearly \$200 billion a year. That's a lot of  
13    money that could be spent on a lot of things here in  
14    the United States, instead of protecting oil over  
15    there.

16                  If Keystone Pipeline delivered merely one-  
17    fourth of the quantity of oil we receive from OPEC  
18    nations, as a former Teamster, I want the jobs; as a  
19    veteran, I want our soldiers back home and not have  
20    to protect foreign oil; as a consumer, I want  
21    affordable oil to help bring our economy back; as a  
22    father, I want clean air and clean water. And

23

1     although there have been 157 barrels spilled in the  
2     production of this pipeline, compared to the 20  
3     million barrels a day that we use as a nation, I  
4     think that's something that comes with the territory.

5                 But as an American, I'm proud to stand  
6     here with my union friends and with my veteran  
7     friends, and with my Canadian neighbors, and with my  
8     fellow citizens, and ask the President to please  
9     approve this pipeline.

10                Thank you.

11                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
12     comments.

13                (Applause.)

14                MS. COLEMAN: Would the person with number  
15     three please approach the microphone and state your  
16     name and your affiliation? Thank you.

17                MR. TURNER: Madam Chairman, thank you. I  
18     have a statement that I wish to read, please.

19                My name is Darryl Turner and I'm a  
20     pipeliner. I am a member of Pipeliners Local 798,  
21     the most highly trained pipeline welders in the  
22     world. And our union will be instrumental in

1 constructing all of the Keystone XL Pipeline from the  
2 Canadian border south into Texas under a project  
3 labor agreement with the exception of the last two  
4 spreads that have been rumored to be built non-union  
5 here in Texas. Where skilled labor is used,  
6 TransCanada's commitment to building the best  
7 pipeline is assured.

8 I am 61 years old and I'm a native of  
9 Alabama. I've lived in Alabama my entire life. But  
10 I have built pipelines all over the world, including  
11 Alaska, the Middle East, South America, and the North  
12 Sea. Nowhere else on this earth of ours have I  
13 witnessed the environmental concerns and the  
14 construction skills that are required every time a  
15 pipeline is built in these United States.

16 In fact, our union contractors will  
17 construct the most solidly built, the most  
18 environmentally friendly, and the most sophisticated  
19 oil pipeline ever constructed in this country. And,  
20 ladies and gentlemen, that's how it should be. No  
21 shortcuts that will harm man or ecology will ever be  
22 taken by our contractors or by this union.



1           TransCanada is committed to building it  
2   right. We know how to build it right. And our  
3   government will see to it. That's not a statement  
4   that I've made to impress anyone; that's just the  
5   truth. I hope that my words will be taken seriously  
6   by the people that can make this project happen.

7           I am not a person that would ever harm the  
8   environment; on the contrary, blue sky and clean  
9   drinking water are very precious to me. But what I  
10  hold most dear is our young men and women deployed in  
11  the Middle East.

12           If our United States were to become energy  
13  independent we would not need that OPEC oil. Our  
14  money for oil would stay on this side of the Atlantic  
15  Ocean, and those American-haters would not be funded  
16  with U.S. dollars that they use to make war on  
17  America.

18           What could be better --

19           (Applause.)

20           MR. TURNER: What could be better than  
21  bringing Canadian oil to the U.S. Gulf Coast, knowing  
22  that our friends from the North aren't out to get us

23

1       and we will not have to defend ourselves while we  
2       build that pipeline.

3               Thank you, Madam Chairman.

4               MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

5               (Applause.)

6               MS. COLEMAN: Just one minute, sir. I  
7       will call on you just in one minute.

8               I was asked to introduce another person  
9       who is from one of the city governments here. Mr. W.  
10      L. Pate, Council Member at Large from the City of  
11      Beaumont.

12              Thank you for your patience in waiting.

13      Thank you.

14              MR. PATE: I'm W. L. Pate and I'm  
15      representing the City of Beaumont. The Mayor  
16      couldn't be here today.

17              But I want to tell you that I would  
18      beseech the State Department and anybody who can to  
19      help these people here in southeast Texas. We're  
20      talking about jobs for southeast Texans. The  
21      unemployment rate nationwide is like 9.2 percent; it  
22      is much higher here in southeast Texas.

23

1                   You want a jobs program; initiate the  
2   Keystone Pipeline. We will put 100,000-plus people  
3   to work; we'll bring taxes to the local entities.  
4   And we will employ our friends and neighbors who are  
5   not working right now but would, that are in the  
6   construction industry that have been wishing there  
7   was something else to do.

8                   I have nothing against our friends in  
9   Nigeria or Venezuela or Saudi Arabia. But I care  
10  more about my friends that work here in southeast  
11  Texas and having them work for America's energy  
12  independence, than the folks that don't particularly  
13  care about the United States of America. I know  
14  these people do.

15                  I know they -- These are real Americans  
16  here. And you can look in their eyes and tell --

17                  (Applause.)

18                  MR. PATE: And I appreciate my Navy buddy.  
19  As a retired Army colonel, we have to run on fuel.  
20  More than a few wars have been lost because the  
21  troops got ahead of the fuel supply, and it really  
22  made a difference.

23

1                   We need to be energy independent. We have  
2   a chance to do that. And for us to even think for  
3   more than one second about employing Americans and  
4   putting them back to work in an economic situation  
5   that is undoubtedly the worst that we've had in  
6   decades, when these people want to go to work -- it's  
7   not about not wanting to work; it's about people who  
8   want to work.

9                   And we owe it to our American -- our  
10   American citizens who pay taxes -- does anybody in  
11   here not pay taxes?

12                  Okay. I was only joking.

13                  But we've got to think about our citizens  
14   and putting them to work. The most important thing  
15   in the United States right now is jobs -- oh, yeah,  
16   and the other thing is jobs. And the other thing is  
17   -- what is it?

18                  (Chorus of 'Jobs.')

19                  MR. PATE: Jobs.

20                  You'd have thought we worked on this.

21   This is how good these people are.

22                  But that's what it's about. It's about

23

1     putting American's to work and realizing the impact  
2     that working with our Canadian friends can have. We  
3     can't sit around and wait on Venezuela, Nigeria,  
4     Saudi Arabia. They really don't care that much about  
5     us. I love these people. I'm not that sure that the  
6     people in Nigeria really care one way or the other.

7                 So on behalf of the citizens of Beaumont,  
8     the people of southeast Texas, we have got to get  
9     this through and get it through as fast as we can.  
10    People here need some relief.

11                Thank you so much.

12                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

13                (Applause.)

14                MS. COLEMAN: Sir, if I may beg your  
15    indulgence one more time because State Representative  
16    Joe Deshotel -- I'm sorry if I've pronounced it wrong  
17    -- please come to the mike. And then we definitely  
18    will go to number four.

19                VOICE: Sure.

20                (Laughter.)

21                MR. DESHOTEL: Sorry about that.

22                Yes, Joe Deshotel. I represent District

23

1     22, which we're sitting in now and which is the  
2     district that is the final destination of a lot of  
3     the pipeline.

4             And I, you know, I support this pipeline  
5     because I support economic development. I chair the  
6     Business and Industry Committee in the Texas  
7     legislature. And this is about business and  
8     industry.

9             And I just want to speak a little  
10    different about it, not from the perspective of  
11    national security, which a lot of us have talked  
12    about and which is very important, to become energy  
13    independent, which is very important.

14            But for southeast Texas, I would like to  
15    see and I would like to meet with the representatives  
16    of Keystone, with the Chamber of Commerce, with the  
17    people who have environmental issues and sit down and  
18    let us know what can we do. It's going to be a while  
19    before this happens. What can we do to assure that  
20    as many people as possible get work here in southeast  
21    Texas? Because we know jobs are going to be created.  
22    We want those jobs to be anchored here in southeast  
23

1 Texas as soon as and as many as possible with this  
2 pipeline and not just talk generally about 250,000  
3 jobs in the United States.

4 We're hurting here in southeast Texas.  
5 And I want to know -- and I would request the members  
6 of Keystone to meet with me and other leaders, with  
7 Allen Ridder and with the county judge and other  
8 leaders here and sit down and come up with a plan on  
9 how we're going to employ people in southeast Texas  
10 in this pipeline project and how people in southeast  
11 Texas are going to directly benefit.

12 Because I know the country -- there's no  
13 question about that -- energy independence is  
14 important. But that's what I want to see because I  
15 know there has to be a balance between those issues  
16 of the environment and a balance between those  
17 interests of capitalism. And I think we can do that  
18 here in southeast Texas, work that out and get  
19 everybody at the table. And that's what I'm asking  
20 for.

21 And I thank you very much for your time.  
22 Thank you.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. MAGGIO: Ladies and gentlemen, just  
4 two more things.

5 And, sir, you are next. You are next.  
6 Please come on up to the microphone.

7 We just want to ask, those with even  
8 numbers on this side; those with odd numbers on that  
9 side. And if your name is a difficult name to  
10 pronounce, if you could spell it out for us so that  
11 the stenographer can record it.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. STEVENSON: I'm not sure I want to  
14 speak now.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: We definitely want to hear  
17 your opinion.

18 MR. STEVENSON: My name is Philip  
19 Stevenson. I'm representative -- I'm director of  
20 pipeline for the United Association.

21 We represent 340,000 members in the United  
22 States and Canada, pipe tradesmen. Of those 340,000,

23



1     10,000 of those men and women are welders, helpers,  
2     and journeymen. We actually build the pipeline.

3             I understand the project's been thoroughly  
4     vetted. The EIS statements are in. But we want  
5     everybody to know that it's very important to our  
6     organization, along with all of our colleagues here  
7     in the brightly colored shirts, this is very  
8     important that we let the American public know that  
9     we take great pride in building these pipelines.

10            The United Association is deeply committed  
11     to protect the environment, the air, the water, and  
12     the natural resources for future generations.

13            We're the best. Our people undergo  
14     extensive training to learn their craft. We take a  
15     backseat to no one. People are continually updating  
16     their skills to maintain the most reliable work force  
17     to build these pipelines that you can get.

18            We're deeply committed to national  
19     security. At this time if we import this oil from  
20     Canada we could reduce our reliance on OPEC nations  
21     by nearly 12 to 17 percent. A lot of people don't  
22     realize it, but the United States already imports 99

1     percent of Canadian exported oil. So we're already  
2     bringing it in.

3                 We built the original Keystone -- not the  
4     XL but the original Keystone -- and it's in-service,  
5     working every day.

6                 Probably the most important aspect of this  
7     entire evening is jobs. One of the gentlemen  
8     mentioned a 9.2 unemployment rate. In parts of the  
9     country construction unemployment, amounts to nearly  
10    40 percent. We have the potential for nearly 13,000  
11    jobs just to build the pipeline. That's immense.  
12    That doesn't include the ancillary jobs or the  
13    increased capacity in these refineries; that's just  
14    for construction on the pipeline.

15                What everybody does not realize is this is  
16    totally private money. There's no government funds  
17    included in the construction.

18                (Applause.)

19                MR. STEVENSON: That's a very important  
20    point. We need to put our people to work. We need  
21    to do it tomorrow.

22                Thank you for your time.

23

1                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much for your  
2     patience and your comments. Thank you.

3                   (Applause.)

4                   MS. COLEMAN: Number five, please. Your  
5     name and affiliation.

6                   MR. HAMMOND: Thank you, Madam Chairman.  
7     My name is Reno Hammond, R-e-n-o H-a-m-m-o-n-d. I'm  
8     the business manager for the Southwest Laborers  
9     District Council.

10                  (Applause.)

11                  MR. HAMMOND: An affiliate of the Laborers  
12     International Union of North America, the nice orange  
13     shirts you see here today.

14                  I stood up here thinking at first that I  
15     was going to talk about the numbers, the 20,000 jobs  
16     that could be created with this, the more than half a  
17     billion dollars in tax revenue. But thanks to you  
18     guys, we know what the environmental studies are; we  
19     know what the impact is. We know what the job  
20     creations are through various studies all over. And  
21     we can argue down to the numbers.

22                  But what it really boils down to is we

23

1     need jobs. We have people losing homes every day.  
2     We have people who are worried about their children.  
3     They don't have healthcare. These jobs will save  
4     homes and build new homes and get our country back on  
5     track. We can afford then to go and buy an American-  
6     made car. We can afford to fix our schools, build  
7     revenue for the infrastructure and get this country  
8     back on track.

9                 That's what we're here to do today. This  
10    is not a political issue. This shouldn't be about  
11    environmentalists against the pipeline. We're all on  
12    the same side here. Everybody wants the environment  
13    to be good for our children and their children.  
14    There's no argument with that.

15                So on behalf of all working people, we  
16    urge you to please let this permit happen and support  
17    the pipeline. Thank you.

18                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much for your  
19    comments.

20                (Applause.)

21                MS. COLEMAN: Number six, please. Thank  
22    you.

23

1                   MR. GENTRY: Hello. My name is Greg  
2 Gentry. I'm the vice president and general manager  
3 of the Valero Port Arthur Refinery.

4                   Valero is the largest independent refiner  
5 in North America and one of the largest manufacturers  
6 of renewable fuels. The Valero Port Arthur Refinery  
7 processes over 300,000 barrels a day of oil and  
8 directly employs over 800 workers, along with several  
9 hundred support contractors. We're committed to  
10 supplying premium quality clean fuel safely,  
11 responsibly, and efficiently.

12                  The Keystone XL Pipeline will help us  
13 continue this commitment. And we firmly believe that  
14 construction of the pipeline is in the best interests  
15 of Port Arthur and our country.

16                  We respectfully urge the State Department  
17 to grant the Presidential Permit that is required for  
18 construction of this important project.

19                  As you know, the Keystone Pipeline will  
20 provide over 700,000 barrels of Canadian crude oil  
21 each day to the U.S. market, some directly to  
22 refineries here in Texas on the Gulf Coast.

23

1                   Valero and many other regional refineries  
2   are already configured for and process the same type  
3   of crude that Keystone will deliver into clean  
4   refined products, and has been doing so for several  
5   years. In fact, the Valero Port Arthur Refinery  
6   today processes the same Canadian crude oil without  
7   impacts.

8                   Approval of the pipeline means we will be  
9   better able to serve American customers by providing  
10   reliable and economic fuels and petrochemicals.  
11   We're doing so with our commitment to the environment  
12   in the forefront.

13                  As your thorough analysis of the project's  
14   environmental impact properly concluded, there are no  
15   substantial environmental concerns that should  
16   prohibit this project from moving forward. The  
17   Keystone XL will be constructed using industry best-  
18   practices and will meet or exceed all existing  
19   pipeline regulatory standards.

20                  Refineries in Port Arthur are already some  
21   of the best environmentally controlled facilities in  
22   the world. We are working closely with our local  
23

1 environmental groups and government officials to make  
2 sure that they understand that there should not be  
3 any adverse local impacts from the strategic crude  
4 supply.

5 By approving the construction of the  
6 Keystone XL Pipeline America will be importing oil  
7 from our largest trading partner and closest ally,  
8 therefore strengthening both our national security  
9 and energy security. And increased oil flow from  
10 Canada reduces American dependence on oil imports  
11 from less reliable sources.

12 The Keystone Pipeline will also bolster a  
13 crucial sector of the nation's manufacturing  
14 industry. Jobs are most important, especially in  
15 times like these. And the pipeline is expected to  
16 create nearly 20,000 high-wage manufacturing and  
17 construction jobs across the United States. Our  
18 country cannot afford to reject this incredible job  
19 growth.

20 Keystone XL will be supporting American  
21 workers who produce the oil as well as workers of  
22 American companies like ours who refine it. With  
23

1     this prospective job growth comes great news for the  
2     U.S. economy. States along the pipeline route --  
3     including Texas -- are expected to receive \$5.2  
4     billion in property taxes during the estimated  
5     operating life of the pipeline.

6             An independent study also estimates that  
7     the Keystone Pipeline will bring more than \$20  
8     billion in new spending in the U.S. economy and  
9     produce an increase of \$6.5 billion in personal  
10    income of Americans.

11            Discarding any potential U.S. economic  
12    growth would be a mistake. But rejecting economic  
13    benefits of this magnitude would be detrimental.

14            Along with creating jobs and spurring  
15    economic growth, Keystone XL will improve our  
16    national security and provide a long-term stable  
17    energy supply to the United States. Approval and  
18    construction of the Keystone Pipeline is in the best  
19    interest of all Americans.

20            And we would respectfully request that the  
21    Department of State expeditiously approve the project  
22    and grant TransCanada the Presidential Permit



1       necessary to begin building the pipeline.

2                   Thank you for your time.

3                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
4       comments.

5                   (Applause.)

6                   MS. COLEMAN: Number seven, please. Thank  
7       you.

8                   MR. SMITH: Bill Smith, I'm Building  
9       Materials, Construction Trades, and Southern Regions  
10      Directory of International Brotherhood of  
11      Teamsters. And I'm here to speak that America, the  
12      United States of America does need this pipeline. It  
13      needs it for the jobs; it needs it for the security.

14                   We've heard for years up here, why are we  
15      dependent on OPEC. It's time that we break that from  
16      OPEC. This is the start of doing that.

17                   We're right now in the middle of the worst  
18      job economy, lack of, in the country. We heard a  
19      while ago 40 percent in the construction industry.  
20      It's time we add these jobs.

21                   And on top of that, the pipeliners, when  
22      they come in the communities and everything, they

23

1 spend money in that community. That is very  
2 important for all of our communities and from this  
3 pipeline from Canada to Port Arthur, Texas.

4 I thank you.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
6 comments.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: I'm sorry, Number Six, could  
9 you just spell your name? Our recorder did not get  
10 it.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. SMITH: It's real hard. S-m-i-t-h.

13 MR. MAGGIO: Could I just ask, just to  
14 make it easier for all of us, could everybody spell  
15 your name or just say it really clearly? I know it  
16 sounds incredible, but we have different accents and  
17 sometimes it's hard to understand.

18 MR. SMITH: Well, it's kind of hard to  
19 understand my Alabama accent.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. HARRIS: Ready?

22 MS. COLEMAN: Yes.

23

1                   MR. HARRIS: Hello. Thank you. My name  
2    is Randy Harris. I'm with the Midwest Region of the  
3    Laborers International Union of North America. And  
4    I'm here today to support the Keystone XL Pipeline.

5                   For the nearly 1500 or so miles this  
6    pipeline will run, this will create thousands and  
7    thousands of jobs. And in this economy, I don't  
8    think anyone can turn away billions of dollars of  
9    private investment with the way things are going  
10   right now.

11                  We have an opportunity to put thousands of  
12   people to work, to save thousands of families, and to  
13   help people all throughout the nation, not just on  
14   the pipeline route; there's the ancillary jobs and  
15   everything that goes along with that.

16                  I urge the State Department and the  
17   administration to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline.

18                  Thank you.

19                  MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
20   comments.

21                  (Applause.)

22                  MS. COLEMAN: Number eight. Thank you.

23

1                   MR. RICHARD: Hey, how you doing? My name  
2 is Greg Richard, R-i-c-h-a-r-d.

3                   Okay. I begin, as I must, by saying I'm  
4 not against the pipeline coming through Port Arthur.  
5 However, Port Arthur has probably the third-highest  
6 unemployment rate in the state. Meanwhile you've got  
7 five refineries around Port Arthur making record  
8 profits. So something doesn't make any sense.

9                   It's like -- my statistics say that --  
10                  (Applause.)

11                  MR. RICHARD: -- these refineries only  
12 employ like 17 percent of the people in this city.  
13 So they're bringing people in elsewhere to make  
14 money. So why should I be happy about a pipeline  
15 coming here when you're not hiring people like me to  
16 work.

17                  So what I suggest you do when you get back  
18 to D.C., go down on Constitution Avenue, visit the  
19 Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract  
20 Compliance, and ask them to please enforce the Code  
21 of Federal Regulations, Chapter 60-1.7, Paragraph A-  
22 1. If they come here and do compliance reviews on  
23

1     these refineries they're going to find stuff they're  
2     not going to want to see; I can promise you that.

3                     (Applause.)

4                     MR. RICHARD: And lastly, the gentleman  
5     from Valero, the plant manager, and the guy who's  
6     running for congressman, if it's such a nice place to  
7     stay, why don't you guys move here and live next to  
8     us, and, you know, know how to build a pipeline.

9                     That's basically all I have to say. Thank  
10    you.

11                    MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12                    (Applause.)

13                    MS. COLEMAN: And number nine.

14                    MR. FORNESS: Ten.

15                    MS. COLEMAN: Number ten. I'm sorry.

16                    MR. FORNESS: My name is Kurt Forness, K-  
17    u-r-t, F-o-r-n-e-s-s. I'm with the Laborers  
18    International Union of North America. And I'm here  
19    in support of the pipeline.

20                    To continue with the theme, it will  
21    obviously bring good jobs, which means a boost to the  
22    economy all along the pipeline, which means better

23

1 roads, better schools, fire departments, police  
2 departments, everything along the way.

3 So I'm for the pipeline.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
5 comments.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Number eleven, please.

8 MR. NAVILLE: Yes, Madam Chairman. My  
9 name is Jeff Naville, J-e-f-f N-a-v-i-l-l-e.

10 And I wanted to come and speak in support  
11 of the Keystone Pipeline, as everyone has said,  
12 related to jobs and things of that nature. The  
13 importance to our economy right now to get a project  
14 going as fast as we can and get through this process  
15 with the support of the administration is critical.

16 Also, the fact that the security of our  
17 nation is important as well. We'd be bringing this  
18 oil from our Canadian neighbors in the north, who  
19 have been our friends.

20 And I think, you know, this ability to  
21 participate in the activities of our government we  
22 thank you for. And we would like to again strongly

23

1       urge that this administration and the State  
2       Department approve this pipeline.

3               Thank you.

4               MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you very much for your  
5       comments.

6               (Applause.)

7               MS. COLEMAN:  Number twelve.  Is there a  
8       number twelve.

9               (Laughter.)

10              MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you.

11              MR. MILLER:  Thank you.

12              My name is Randy Miller.  I'm here on  
13       behalf of Local 798, the Pipeliners Union.  I'm also  
14       here in connection with -- in support of the UA, in  
15       support of the brothers and sisters here in the Local  
16       Midwestern Laborers Union.

17              What the point of this is, is this is an  
18       American project.  It may be a pipeline that is being  
19       built by TransCanada.  But make no mistake about it:  
20       This is an American pipeline.  It's going to carry  
21       crude to thirsty American refineries here in this  
22       Gulf.

23

1                   We're not going to need 10,000 more  
2   drilling platforms and we're not going to need to  
3   drill up national parks and public lands because  
4   we're going to have 173 billion barrels of oil to  
5   draw upon for this nation's needs from our neighbor  
6   to the north, Canada.

7                   Ultimately that resource will run into the  
8   300 billion barrels. It will be more oil than Saudi  
9   Arabia. It will be the largest oil reserve, and it  
10  will be ours to share.

11                  It is about jobs, but it's about jobs for  
12  the nation. This country has reached here to this  
13  point, it has come here, and it's been a relay race,  
14  a relay race based on power. Manpower. To cut this  
15  country out of the woods, it became horsepower; it  
16  became steam power, it became petroleum power.

17                  And it's this generation's obligation not  
18  to drop that baton right now and leave its future  
19  without a source of power that it needs to transition  
20  from hydrocarbons to whatever lies next in our  
21  future.

22                  We're here. We can do it. This pipeline  
23



1 will fund the way. And I commend TransCanada for  
2 calling upon the skilled labor, the best welders.  
3 They're going to bury their pipeline deep.

4 The labor, the jobs that will come up and  
5 down this corridor are going to pave the way to a  
6 future that isn't built with dirty oil. Dirty oil  
7 isn't coal sands oil. Dirty oil is oil that you have  
8 to send your young men and women to fight and die to  
9 get. That's dirty oil.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. MILLER: Thank you very much.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

15 Number thirteen, please.

16 MR. BENNETT: I'm Mack Bennett, Pipeline  
17 Director for the Operating Engineers. I represent a  
18 little over 400,000 operating engineers and  
19 construction markers.

20 You know, we're here to support this  
21 project. This project means a lot to the people  
22 throughout the United States, the cities, the

23

1       counties and stuff. It will affect -- bring in more  
2       money and stuff.

3                You know, we've got -- the small town I  
4       live in, Granbury, Texas, and stuff, where they've  
5       had to lay off the teachers and stuff, the classrooms  
6       are getting bigger and stuff. The fire departments  
7       are having to beg other fire departments to get gear.

8                So, you know, I think it would be in the  
9       best interests of the U.S. to let this project go  
10      forth and stuff.

11               Thank you.

12               MS. COLEMAN: Sir, would you please just  
13      say your -- spell your name? We didn't get it.

14               MR. BENNETT: Mack, M-a-c-k, Bennett, B-e-  
15      n-n-e-t-t.

16               MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much. Thank  
17      you for your comments.

18               (Applause.)

19               MS. COLEMAN: Number fourteen, please.

20               MR. WHITE: Good afternoon. State  
21      representative James White.

22               And I represent four counties here in east

23

1 Texas: Angelina County, Trinity County, San Jacinto,  
2 along with Tyler County. And after redistricting  
3 I'll pick up Polk County. At least three of those  
4 counties will have a significant part of the pipeline  
5 going through their region. And I'm here speaking  
6 for the pipeline.

7 Now I think the 13 -- or my other  
8 colleagues from the Texas House have done a great job  
9 in outlining. But, ma'am and sir, I would hope that  
10 you would go back to Washington, D.C. -- And I know  
11 you're not going to make any comments from the dais,  
12 and I understand that. But you have to make all of  
13 us here understand the delay. Why isn't this being  
14 expedited?

15 When people go to the news and they see  
16 other projects in other states with taxpayer money  
17 being expedited, make us understand why this program  
18 with private funds is not being expedited.

19 Driving here --

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. WHITE: Driving here for 110 years  
22 we've been doing pipelines and oil. Make us  
23

1 understand why this isn't being expedited in 2011.

2 All of my counties have unemployment at or  
3 above the state and national average. Make us  
4 understand why this is not being expedited.

5 You have your data. You have the  
6 environmental data. What is taking so long? This is  
7 why I look at news reports and people say they're  
8 frustrated with government. We need jobs. We need  
9 national security.

10 We don't understand when we look on the  
11 news and see the data but we don't see the action  
12 from the government. Even the Federal Government --  
13 not just the local governments, the state, the county  
14 -- even the federal government needs revenue. The  
15 way you get revenue is someone invests; they hire  
16 people to provide a productive product to make the  
17 product, and then they're paid a wage. And they  
18 become taxpayers.

19 You have challenges on the national level.  
20 You cannot pay your bills because you do not have  
21 enough taxpayers.

22 So make us understand. Why are we sending  
23

1     our kids overseas when we have allies and people who  
2     are our friends who are willing to pump the oil here  
3     to put these people to work?

4             So in closing, I support it. And I hope  
5     that your decision and the timeline that you're  
6     using, these people can understand -- make it  
7     understandable. Expedite the pipeline.

8             Thank you so much for coming.

9             MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for giving your  
10    views. Thank you very much.

11            (Applause.)

12            MS. COLEMAN: Number fifteen, please.

13    Thank you.

14            MR. MAHER: Mark Maher, M-a-r-k M-a-h-e-  
15    r. I'm the business manager for the Local 450 of the  
16    International Union of Operating Engineers. We  
17    represent workers in 101 counties in Texas.

18            Dear Madam Chairman, the International  
19    Union of Operating Engineers, Local 450, submits the  
20    following comments on the Final Environmental Impact  
21    Statement for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline  
22    Project.

23

1                   The International Union of Operating  
2   Engineers, Local 450, represents thousands of skilled  
3   maintenance workers and heavy equipment operators in  
4   southeast Texas. The construction economy  
5   desperately needs the major infusion of private  
6   capital to create jobs.

7                   Despite being the peak of the construction  
8   season, the unemployment rate in the industry is the  
9   highest of any sector in the nation and has occupied  
10   that unenviable position throughout the economic  
11   downturn. Over one million construction workers  
12   across the country are without work. This \$13  
13   billion private project financed without a cent of  
14   public resources will provide significant  
15   socioeconomic benefits to the industry and the Gulf  
16   Coast region.

17                  Local 450 strongly encourages the  
18   Department of State to find this project in the  
19   national interest and issue the project a  
20   Presidential Permit.

21                  It is no exaggeration to say that the  
22   Keystone XL project will be the safest pipeline in  
23

1 the world.

2           The company will be mandated by the  
3 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
4 Administration to incorporate 57 special conditions  
5 along the whole pipeline route, conditions to which  
6 no other whole pipeline in this country is subjected  
7 to. From special construction techniques to enhanced  
8 specification of the pipe itself, these conditions  
9 ensure the state of the art in pipeline technology  
10 and safety.

11           Pipelines are the safest way to transport  
12 crude oil across land. And this pipeline will be  
13 second to none.

14           According to the environmental review,  
15 it's as likely, depending on the American demand for  
16 petroleum, that this project will displace foreign  
17 imports of water-borne crude, delivering significant  
18 environmental benefits to the region.

19           On January the 23rd in 2010, a tanker  
20 delivering crude oil to Beaumont collided with a  
21 barge, releasing an estimated 11,000 barrels of oil.  
22 The spill required the closure of the Sabine Natures  
23

1 Waterway, dramatically affecting the economics and  
2 environment of our area. The likelihood of these  
3 type of disasters will actually be reduced with the  
4 construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

5 The International Union of Operating  
6 Engineers, Local 450 respectfully requests that the  
7 State Department issue the project a Presidential  
8 Permit as soon as possible. The construction economy  
9 in the Gulf Coast region needs this massive private  
10 investment.

11 Thank you for your consideration.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
13 comments.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Number sixteen. Thank you.

16 MR. SPIEGEL: Gary Spiegel, Midwest  
17 Region, Laborers International Union of North  
18 America.

19 I can stand up here and spout numbers,  
20 Madam Chairman, all day long -- 20,000 jobs, \$20  
21 billion to boost the U.S. economy, \$585 million in  
22 state and local taxes. That's not what it's about.

23



1     What it's about is putting local people to work,  
2     keeping local money in the local area. That's what  
3     it's about.

4                 Please pass the permit and let the local  
5     people go back to work to build the U.S. economy back  
6     up.

7                 Thank you.

8                 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir. Thank you  
9     for your comments.

10                (Applause.)

11                MS. COLEMAN: Number seventeen. Thank  
12     you.

13                MR. SHEPHERD: Hi. I'm J. D. Shepherd and  
14     I represent the Laborers International Union of North  
15     America.

16                And I have heard a lot of discussion about  
17     the pipeline. I think something we haven't really  
18     discussed enough is the strategic value of the  
19     pipeline.

20                I know if this line doesn't go through  
21     here, I know a huge country that lies to the east of  
22     us that would like all of the oil. And it's China.

23

1 And they've already invested \$18 billion in the last  
2 15 months in the tar sands. And they would like to  
3 invest billions more.

4 The Northern Gateway Pipeline, which is  
5 going to be a 731 mile pipeline from Calgary to  
6 British North Columbia is already spoken for; their  
7 pipeline capacity is filled. They'd like nothing  
8 more than to transport all of the oil from the tar  
9 sands to China. And that's a proven fact. And they  
10 have a long-term plan to divert as much energy as  
11 they can to China.

12 So if we don't approve the pipeline here,  
13 I know someone who is glad to pay for it.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
16 comments.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Number eighteen, please.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. ADAMS: Yes. Josh Adams with Laborers  
21 International Union of North America.

22 Obviously I'm here to support the

23

1 pipeline. My shirt probably gave that away. But,  
2 you know, we meet people every day that are out of  
3 work in this country. But I want to tell you a story  
4 about one I met that is actually working. But  
5 because hours are down, you know, people are doing  
6 what they can to make ends meet.

7 And men and women both, they're out there  
8 using a credit card now to pay for their gas to go to  
9 work, and work less hours. And at some end this is  
10 all going to come crumbling down on all of our heads.  
11 I mean we've already had the economic collapse once,  
12 and it's only getting greater.

13 If the pipeline goes through, you know, we  
14 have pipeline workers that will go to work. People  
15 in the local areas that will go to work. Hotels,  
16 restaurants. It's not a pipeline; it's a lifeline.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
19 comments.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Number nineteen. Thank you.

22 MR. STOTT: Hi. Sean Stott, S-e-a-n S-t-

23

1 o-t-t, also with the Laborers International Union.

2 Our organization is a strong believer in a  
3 comprehensive approach to solving our nation's energy  
4 needs. We can't -- We know as an organization that  
5 we cannot solve our energy needs with one component  
6 of the puzzle, one piece of the puzzle.

7 We know we need to be involved in and  
8 invest in as a country, wind energy. We know we need  
9 to invest in solar. We know we need to invest in  
10 nuclear. We know we need to utilize less energy  
11 through weatherizing out homes. But we also know  
12 that we cannot simply ignore the fact that our  
13 country needs a stable and steady supply of crude  
14 oil.

15 You cannot unplug one of those components  
16 from the energy picture and expect our needs to be  
17 met.

18 Another one of the issues that you  
19 mentioned is the -- well, I don't know whether you  
20 mentioned it or not, actually. But one of the  
21 components that we need to consider here is the  
22 revenue needs of the state. The state representative

23

1     who spoke most recently brought this up.

2                   This pipeline is going to generate  
3     revenue. You can't open a newspaper around the  
4     country without seeing a story about the Federal  
5     Government, the state government, the local  
6     government needing more revenue.

7                   How do you get more revenue? By either  
8     increasing tax rates or increasing the base of people  
9     who pay. And that is the number of people who pay.  
10    How can you get more people to pay taxes? By giving  
11    them jobs.

12                   There's no better -- there's a saying  
13    where I live: There's no better social program than  
14    a job. And so if we give people -- thousands of  
15    people throughout Port Arthur, Jefferson County,  
16    Texas, Oklahoma, throughout the Midwest and the rest  
17    of the United States good paying jobs, we're going to  
18    solve a lot of our nation's energy and financial  
19    needs.

20                   Thank you.

21                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
22    comments.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Number 20. Thank you.

3 MR. CHOATE: Yes. I'm Carlton Choate, C-  
4 h-o-a-t-e. I'm here representing the Laborers also.

5 And I just want everyone to know: There's  
6 like 1.2 million people out of work since 2008;  
7 85,000 right here in Texas out of work.

8 I heard a gentleman earlier and he said,  
9 'I wouldn't get anything out of this pipeline if it  
10 came here.' I do not see how he could even think  
11 that being that Canada is one of our largest traders.

12 Why would we want to go to the Middle East  
13 and have our gas pumped here. Any time anything  
14 happens, our gas price is sky high. I cannot see how  
15 he could benefit -- or not benefit from having our  
16 gas line right here at home where our gas prices are  
17 going to be going down.

18 I had another gentleman tell me outside:  
19 All you construction workers, get on a bus, go to  
20 work. How is that going to benefit me? I said,  
21 'Sir,' I said, 'Well, for one, everyone's going to go  
22 to your stores here, buy that loaf of bread, buy that  
23

1 lunch meat. Going to make that lunch, get on that  
2 bus, ever how they get there, go to work.'

3 That's all I have.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
5 comments.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Number 21, please.

8 MR. HILL: Yes. My name is Robert Hill,  
9 H-I-l-l.

10 I don't know all the numbers. I've  
11 listened to everybody and it is extremely interesting  
12 to me.

13 In 1980 I started working pipelines. I  
14 represent the Teamsters out of Local 657. I'm  
15 president of retirees there. And I have seen  
16 everything from the fence crews; I've seen the right-  
17 of-way guys, I've seen the dozers clear the land;  
18 I've seen them dig the ditches; I've seen the pipe  
19 gangs putting the pipe out; stringing crews;  
20 lowering-in crews putting the pipe in the ditch.

21 I've seen labor hands, operating  
22 engineers; welders do some of the most exemplary work

23

1 I've ever seen. I've seen them cross rivers; I've  
2 seen them cross lakes. I've seen them move tanks.

3 I've seen them do everything they can  
4 possibly do to put the land back exactly as it was.  
5 And when you're going by a pipeline the only reason  
6 you know it's there is because there's a fence post  
7 painted a different color.

8 And the environmental issues, I can't  
9 believe that there are any environmental issues. If  
10 you ever saw a pipeline map of the United States of  
11 America, it's almost like an interstate map. There's  
12 pipelines all over this country today. And none of  
13 them that I know of have ever burst and caused  
14 problems to the water, to the environment.

15 And you're always going to have problems.  
16 I've worked on safety crews, on testing crews. They  
17 put these pipelines under extreme pressure to test  
18 them with water before they ever put anything inside  
19 them.

20 And I've heard all the numbers and I  
21 appreciate it all. But I would urge you to please  
22 recommend this pipeline to go through.

23



1                   Thank you very much for your time.

2                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments  
3   very much. Thank you.

4                   (Applause.)

5                   MS. COLEMAN: Number 22, please. Thank  
6   you.

7                   MR. TERAN: My name is Robert Teran, T-e-  
8   r-a-n. I represent 1200 heavy equipment operators in  
9   north and southeast Texas for the operating  
10  engineers.

11                   Of those 1200 members, they have families,  
12  they pay mortgages, car notes; they pay taxes on the  
13  city level, state level. They will pay into the  
14  Social Security system. They will help lower --  
15  hopefully lower the national deficit.

16                   So I ask that the Department of State pass  
17  the permit. Thank you.

18                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. I  
19  appreciate it.

20                   (Applause.)

21                   MS. COLEMAN: Number 23, please. Thank  
22  you.

23

1                   MR. SHUCK: Yes. My name is Clark Shuck,  
2   S-h-u-c-k. I represent the Laborers Union also.

3                   And I am for this pipeline, as a single  
4   parent with two kids, for the future of them and my  
5   grandson, for the future of them. As the elderly  
6   people are here wanting it to go on, we need our  
7   future to go on as best.

8                   Thank you.

9                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
10   comments.

11                   (Applause.)

12                   MS. COLEMAN: Number 24. Thank you.

13                   MR. POWELL: Hi. My name is Kenneth  
14   Powell. I'm with the Operating Engineers, Fort  
15   Worth, Texas.

16                   I know a lot of the pipeliners who will  
17   work on this pipeline when they do it. Construction  
18   work all across the country has been at double-digit  
19   for several years now.

20                   This project is essential for the jobs  
21   that it will create. The project will go a long ways  
22   to putting equipment operators, pipe-fitters,

23

1 laborers, truck drivers and others to work, along  
2 with the impact it will have on the states that this  
3 pipeline goes through, because all those people are  
4 going to be residing in those states as the work is  
5 done.

6 After three years in the permitting  
7 process, it's time to approve this project and allow  
8 the construction contractors to hire thousands of my  
9 friends and other neighbors to work on the project.  
10 They're good and high-paying jobs, not low-wage jobs.  
11 And at a time when the whole country is looking for a  
12 stimulus, this is the best stimulus shovel-ready  
13 project that you're going to find because it has no  
14 government money involved in it and it only brings  
15 money to the government that so badly needs it right  
16 now.

17 So please find the XL Project in the  
18 national interest and approve the Presidential Permit  
19 as soon as possible.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. We will convey  
22 your views. Thank you.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Number 25, please.

3 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, ma'am. My name is  
4 Rick Anderson. I'm with the Laborers International  
5 Union of North America and Canada.

6 Something we haven't spoke about today is  
7 my organization spends millions of dollars every year  
8 on education, training our people to do the job  
9 right, good-quality workers.

10 We can do this job. We can do it right.  
11 We can do it safely. We need the work. We're in  
12 support of this pipeline.

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. I  
14 appreciate it.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Number 26.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. My name is  
18 Joel Johnson, J-o-h-n-s-o-n.

19 I am with Welspun, one of the world's  
20 largest large-diameter producing pipes in the world.  
21 We're proud to be producing the pipe for the Keystone  
22 XL Project in our new Little Rock mill in Arkansas.

23

1           This project should be allowed to proceed  
2   for many reasons. I'll highlight the top three:  
3   Jobs, jobs, jobs is the current demand from all  
4   corners that I've heard here tonight. The Keystone  
5   XL Project definitely meets this objective. I'll  
6   give you three concrete examples.

7           Right now in our mill in Little Rock we're  
8   working around the clock and we have over 600 direct  
9   jobs making the pipe for you guys to put into the  
10  ground. This project is shovel-ready and does not  
11  require government-directed inefficient stimulus  
12  package money and will inject \$20 billion into the  
13  U.S. economy.

14           The second reason is pipeline safety.  
15  This pipeline has had government scrutiny for years.  
16  And the recent Environmental Impact Statement  
17  concluded that this route is the safest, least  
18  disruptive, and most environmentally responsible of  
19  all the routes analyzed.

20           TransCanada has designed this pipeline to  
21  meet all regulatory requirements and an additional 57  
22  more stringent project-specific special conditions.

23

1     My company's employees produce this pipe to their  
2     exacting specifications. And our employees  
3     understand the importance of building safety into  
4     this pipeline.

5             It does not make any sense to me that the  
6     latest, most advanced, most reviewed and most  
7     regulated pipeline anywhere in North America would  
8     somehow present a risk.

9             The third and final reason that I'd like  
10    to bring up tonight is energy security. We currently  
11    import energy from many countries which are not  
12    overly friendly to us. This pipeline alone can  
13    reduce these imports by up to 40 percent. 25 percent  
14    of the current capacity of this pipeline is planned  
15    to connect stranded North Dakota and Montana oil  
16    fields and they'll bring that oil to market.

17            If permits are withheld or the process is  
18    delayed any further, I am certain that the oil sands  
19    resource will be tapped. I have no doubt that this  
20    oil will be transported to rapidly growing Asian  
21    markets.

22            This pipeline will provide desperately  
23

1     needed jobs, is safe, and provides for energy  
2     security.

3                 I urge that this pipeline be given the  
4     green light to proceed. Thank you.

5                 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
6     comments.

7                 (Applause.)

8                 MS. COLEMAN: Number 27. Thank you.

9                 MR. BENTLEY: My name is Willie Bentley,  
10    with an i-e, and the car, B-e-n-t-l-e-y. No  
11    royalties.

12                (Laughter.)

13                MR. BENTLEY: I would like to urge that we  
14    do this XL Pipeline. I represent the Operating  
15    Engineers Local 178 out of Fort Worth, Texas.

16                Along with all these brothers that you  
17    hear here that hope to work on this pipeline and put  
18    their skills to work and feed their families and all,  
19    I would like you to also consider the security we  
20    would get, like the gentleman said before, is that we  
21    get our oil from our friendly neighbors.

22                I would also like to emphasize, not only

23

1 will these people work on these projects, but  
2 everybody from Texas to Canada, you can just start at  
3 'A' with automobile dealerships, tire dealerships,  
4 all the way down to 'W,' to the washeteria. The jobs  
5 that this pipeline will create, you just can't add it  
6 all up.

7 It's that important that we put everybody  
8 back to work. And that's why I urge you to pass  
9 this.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Many thanks for your  
12 comments. I appreciate it.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Number 28.

15 MR. GREENFIELD: Good evening. My name is  
16 Brent Greenfield, G-r-e-e-n-f-i-e-l-d.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to comment  
18 on behalf of myself individually, as well as on  
19 behalf of Southgate Resources, an energy firm based  
20 in Houston, Texas.

21 Today our nation remains mired in a  
22 struggle to emerge from the darkest economic

23



1 environment since the Great Depression. At the same  
2 time, geopolitical developments occurring halfway  
3 around the globe in regions that we have  
4 traditionally and increasingly relied on for exports  
5 to help meet our energy demand highlight the value to  
6 our nation of natural resources located here at home  
7 and in neighboring countries with stable and  
8 democratic governments.

9           In these uncertain times and for our own  
10 economic and energy security, we must take advantage  
11 of the abundance of natural resources that are  
12 available in our own part of the world. To that end,  
13 the Keystone XL Pipeline represents a unique  
14 opportunity to help move our economy forward and  
15 secure our future energy needs.

16           It is quite common these days to turn on  
17 the television or read the news and hear about  
18 elected officials struggling to come up with  
19 solutions for how to get the nation's economy back on  
20 track. Many of the fixes that are often discussed  
21 involve massive amounts of taxpayer money, funds that  
22 would be accessed through some combinations of higher  
23

1     taxes and additional spending, either of which could  
2     hinder economic growth and further cloud the future  
3     of our fellow citizens' children and grandchildren.

4             The U.S. jobs in economic and energy  
5     security that would come from the Keystone XL  
6     Pipeline, however, do not require any government  
7     funding. With the mere stroke of a pen granting an  
8     authorization to proceed, at least 20,000 new high  
9     wage U.S. jobs are expected to be created in states  
10    stretching all the way from Montana to Texas, and an  
11    estimated \$20 billion is expected to flow into our  
12    economy.

13            In addition, roughly 700,000 barrels of  
14    U.S. and Canadian oil will make its way to our  
15    refineries every single day. That represents an  
16    additional 255 million barrels of oil a year, or more  
17    than one-third of the oil that we imported from the  
18    Middle East and North Africa in 2010, based on the  
19    latest data from the U.S. Energy Information  
20    Administration.

21            Whatever one's view about oil, the fact is  
22    that oil is and will continue to be a necessary and

1     significant component of our nation's energy  
2     portfolio for generations to come. The question is:  
3     Will government policies continue to force us to  
4     import from overseas at current levels, or will  
5     government unlock our backyard door and allow us to  
6     take advantage of resources in our own neck of the  
7     woods?

8                 After years of comprehensive environmental  
9     reviews that recently culminated with the State  
10    Department finding that no significant environmental  
11    concerns exist that should preclude this project from  
12    going forward, and in light of the economic and  
13    energy security implications at stake, it is clear  
14    that it is in the national interest to grant a  
15    President Permit for the construction and operation  
16    of the Keystone Pipeline. Indeed, it would be  
17    contrary to the national interest to do otherwise.

18                Thank you for your time.

19                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much for your  
20    comments.

21                (Applause.)

22                MS. COLEMAN: Number 29. Thank you.

23

1                   MR. MOTLEY: Yes. Michael Motley, M-o-t-  
2 l-e-y. Nacogdoches, Texas.

3                   I'm an owner of some non-industrial forest  
4 land there, which is the Pine Plantation. It's very  
5 near your proposed pipeline route.

6                   I'm a pipeline worker. I belong to Local  
7 178, International Union of Operating Engineers. I  
8 am an energy consumer and I'm an American.

9                   I'm writing and telling you that I'm  
10 expressing a strong support for the construction of  
11 this pipeline project. Our nation's continued  
12 reliance on oil from politically unstable regions of  
13 the world threatens our way of life.

14                  And America should be working with our  
15 neighbors and allies to secure our fuel supply. The  
16 Keystone Pipeline is a clear way to do this.

17                  And I urge the Department to consider the  
18 benefits this pipeline will have for our national  
19 security, the energy security, and our economic  
20 growth.

21                  Furthermore, I believe the Final  
22 Environmental Impact Statement examines the  
23

1 environmental risks and properly concludes that the  
2 potential hazards of this pipeline are minimal.  
3 Every day we balance risks of action versus the  
4 benefits of those actions.

5 I believe the benefits of the XL will  
6 provide far more -- would benefit far more than the  
7 risk which is involved in the construction and its  
8 operation.

9 The Keystone will transport oil from  
10 Canada, one of our most loyal and longstanding  
11 allies, to domestic refineries right here in this  
12 county just down the road.

13 The pipeline will provide more than  
14 700,000 barrels of oil per day to U.S. markets. This  
15 is roughly the equivalent of the oil we import from  
16 countries like Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. By  
17 reducing our reliance on imports from these countries  
18 we'll strengthen our position in the global energy  
19 market and improve our national security.

20 Keystone XL will also provide a potential  
21 link for the domestic producers up in the  
22 intermountain west, you know, on this side of the  
23

1     Rockies. They bring that oil down here to this area.  
2     This can provide economic benefits to the areas up  
3     there, which are currently under an economic stress  
4     due to the lack of competitive marketplaces for their  
5     petroleum.

6             Every barrel of oil we produce  
7     domestically means fewer dollars going to countries  
8     who may not be our friends.

9             In addition to strengthening our national  
10    security and energy security, the economic benefits  
11    of Keystone are substantial. One study said that the  
12    contributions to the U.S. economy could be more than  
13    \$20 billion.

14            At a time when many Americans are still  
15    struggling to find employment, this massive project  
16    is expected to create 20,000 manufacturing and  
17    construction jobs. So operational, the project is  
18    expected to provide more than 5.2 billion in tax  
19    revenue, desperately needed tax revenue. The  
20    Keystone XL will be a significant economic stimulus  
21    when the country needs it most.

22            Okay. For both our national security and

1     the economic reasons, we as a country should be doing  
2     all we can to secure our long-term energy needs with  
3     domestic production and reliable, stable and trusted  
4     trading partners.

5                 I ask you to approve this thing as quickly  
6     as you can.

7                 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
8     I appreciate it.

9                 (Applause.)

10                MS. COLEMAN: Number 30.

11                MS. HERRERA: Hi. My name is Cat Herrera.  
12     I'm from Houston. I'm here with the Sierra Club.

13     And I am a young --

14                MS. COLEMAN: Excuse me. Your name, could  
15     you just repeat it one more time and spell it, your  
16     last name? Thank you.

17                MS. HERRERA: Yes. Cat Herrera. That's  
18     H-e-r-r-e-r-a.

19                Now as a young American, I represent the  
20     future of America and we're going to inherit the  
21     world that you're leaving us.

22                Now as I prepare to enter the work force,

23

1 I try to imagine my future and the future of my  
2 children. Like everyone here, I worry about future  
3 jobs and a need for job creation. But what I worry  
4 about for most is the threat that is posed by this  
5 pipeline.

6 Almost everyone's support of the project  
7 has only been giving a glimpse of the full picture.  
8 TransCanada has promised jobs, that's true. But  
9 they're promising nine times the amount of jobs that  
10 will actually occur. And this is a study done by  
11 yours truly, the U.S. State Department.

12 These jobs will not offset the healthcare  
13 costs that come from the toxic process of refining  
14 conventional oil, much less the tar sands.

15 Having personally talked with members of  
16 the communities that live not a block away from the  
17 refineries, they are suffering higher rates of cancer  
18 and asthma, especially their children, and many of  
19 them can no longer smell. These are people who live  
20 next door to the very refineries that will be  
21 expelling eleven times more sulfur, eleven times more  
22 nickel, six times more nitrogen, and five times more



1     lead than conventional oil.

2                 This pipeline would carry tar sands, which  
3     by its very nature is similar to sand blasting the  
4     inside of the pipe.  It's extremely corrosive.  
5     Already existing pipelines have devastated the  
6     Kalamazoo and Yellowstone Rivers, leaching millions  
7     of gallons of oil into the water systems.

8                 The Keystone XL will cost the Ogallala and  
9     the Chorizo Wilcox aquifers.  The Ogallala alone is  
10    the source of one-third of our agricultural  
11    irrigation.  A third.

12                Anyone with a logical mind and any moral  
13    sensitivity can and does see that this pipeline poses  
14    too great a risk to Americans.  The pipeline will do  
15    nothing to end our dependence on foreign oil, as  
16    China has already expressed interest as being the  
17    largest buyer of this oil that will come here.

18                Personally, I think this is maybe why they  
19    chose Houston and Port Arthur, because they've been  
20    chosen for easy shipment abroad.  And besides, full  
21    capacity is not expected until 2036.

22                Putting the profits of big oil over the  
23

1 lives of Americans and American farmers has no place  
2 in the future for true energy independence. In this  
3 fiscal year 100,000 jobs have been created in the  
4 solar industry, far outpacing any other job sector.  
5 It is in the clean and renewable energy industry that  
6 our future lies.

7           It is time to stop believing the promises  
8 of big oil, who have time and time again broken these  
9 promises of safety, as we've seen in the BP Gulf oil  
10 spill and the spills in the Kalamazoo and Yellowstone  
11 Rivers. Rather than making innovations in our  
12 technology, big oil wants us to use as much of it as  
13 possible.

14           Increasing the fuel efficiency of our cars  
15 by only 2.5 miles per gallon would save 900,000  
16 barrels a day of oil, eliminating the need for  
17 Keystone XL all together.

18           Imagine the chaos that would ensue for  
19 millions of Americans and farmers fighting for the  
20 right to access to clean water. It is important to  
21 focus on jobs, but also the health risk and economic  
22 damage that may, and probably will, come from any

1 part of the pipeline going wrong.

2 As a real American in a nation made up of  
3 many diverse groups, I fear for the future of myself,  
4 our children, and many future generations. So I ask  
5 everyone in here to take a moment and think of those  
6 who will be affected by this: The communities of  
7 color, who are disproportionately affected by the  
8 refineries, the American farmer, who needs water from  
9 the Ogallala to feed the Americans, and most  
10 importantly, the American worker, who needs more than  
11 a temporary dirty and risky job in an industry whose  
12 days are numbered.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.

15 (Applause and boos.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
17 you.

18 All right. Number 31, please.

19 MR. HOLT: Hi. My name is David Holt. I  
20 represent Consumer Energy Alliance. It's a trade  
21 association that represents 300,000 of the nation's  
22 consumers and energy providers.

23

1                   And I stand here today in strong support,  
2   along with 99 percent of the other speakers that have  
3   spoken before me, and urge the State Department to  
4   expeditiously grant the Presidential Permit for the  
5   Keystone Pipeline.

6                   (Applause.)

7                   MS. COLEMAN: Sir, before you proceed,  
8   just your last name.

9                   MR. HOLT: David, D-a-v-i-d, Holt, H-o-l-  
10   t.

11                  MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

12                  MR. HOLT: I want to agree with all the  
13   speakers before me. I want to emphasize two  
14   additional points, possibly three.

15                  One, from a national interest -- which is  
16   my understanding of what the State Department is  
17   trying to determine -- having a stable readily  
18   available supply of crude oil from our neighbor to  
19   the north is much more advantageous to the U.S.  
20   national and energy security than continuing to rely  
21   on unstable forms of energy from elsewhere around the  
22   world.

23

1           Two, the pipeline has been approved with  
2     the Final Environmental Impact Statement. The State  
3     Department itself has determined that this route and  
4     this pipeline is suitable for the purpose and will  
5     not have detrimental environmental impact.

6           There are already -- to my colleague who  
7     just spoke, there are already 15,000 miles of  
8     pipeline that traverse the Ogallala basin now. There  
9     are already 70,000 miles of pipeline in the United  
10    States now.

11           Crude oil pipelines are by far the safest  
12    form of transportation for oil, by far.

13           (Applause.)

14           MR. HOLT: Adding 1700 miles of the most  
15    state of the art, the most advanced technology  
16    pipeline in existence today from a stable secure  
17    resource of Canadian oil to the Gulf Coast of the  
18    United States, where the refinery system is already  
19    optimized to take that crude and turn it into  
20    gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, and other products  
21    for use across the entire economy.

22           It is in the national interest for the  
23

1 State Department to approve this pipeline as quickly  
2 as possible.

3 This region, as we've heard already  
4 repeatedly, is crying out for jobs. There are 25 to  
5 30 million Americans who are out of work. This  
6 pipeline would help in one small way to get the  
7 country going again. Other forms of energy tapping  
8 into the abundant U.S. natural resources would also  
9 help.

10 So I thank you for your time. I thank the  
11 State Department for coming here to southeast Texas.  
12 This issue is vital to the community here. And I  
13 urge you to consider all these comments.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much for your  
16 comments.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Number 32, please. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. TEJADA: My name is Matthew Tejada, M-  
21 a-t-t-h-e-w, last name T-e-j-a-d-a. I'm the  
22 executive director of Airlines Houston, the Houston  
23

1 region's leading health and clean air advocacy non-  
2 profit.

3 I can appreciate very much everything that  
4 has been said up until now about the need for jobs,  
5 the need to reinvigorate the economy. I'm not an  
6 expert on climate change, boreal forests, or on  
7 pipelines. What I do know very well is the air in  
8 Houston and southeast Texas.

9 Our air is already in an abysmal state.  
10 And as many people in this room have been crying out  
11 for more jobs for a long time, I guarantee you there  
12 are just as many people that have been crying out for  
13 clean air for just as long, if not longer.

14 This pipeline will ensure that the air in  
15 southeast Texas stays at an unhealthy level for  
16 decades to come.

17 The environmental justice impact of this  
18 pipeline and its inclusion in the Final Environmental  
19 Impact Statement is insufficient and inadequate, as  
20 has been commented by the Environmental Protection  
21 Agency in the past few months.

22 I urge the State Department, before making  
23

1     any decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline to please  
2     come clean with the burden, the additional burden  
3     that will be borne by these communities for decades  
4     to come: excess cancer rates, increased neural tube  
5     defects in babies, asthma, emphysema, and a generally  
6     reduced quality of life.

7                 These are the decisions that are included  
8     in this pipeline. They're the end of the pipeline  
9     effects of refining this heavy crude.

10                Texas is the target; our refineries are  
11     the target. That's obvious. But these refineries  
12     affect more than just the jobs in southeast Texas.

13                Thank you.

14                MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.  
15     Thank you very much.

16                (Applause.)

17                MS. COLEMAN: Number 33. Thank you.

18                MS. SLAMAN: My name is Sarah Slamen, S-l-  
19     a-m-e-n.

20                Everything that everyone has said about  
21     jobs today really tears on my heartstrings. Like  
22     many people who graduated into the recession, I had a  
23



1 short-term manufacturing job that was laid off in the  
2 ensuing credit crisis of 2008. That was right after  
3 I graduated from college.

4 I was prepared for college by a parent who  
5 is a global executive in the natural gas industry,  
6 and by my father, who sold butterfly valves for  
7 Keystone Incorporated before they were sold to Tyco  
8 in the late '90s. I am well acquainted with how  
9 important and serious this industry is to the region.  
10 It has buttered my bread. It's why I'm standing  
11 before you today.

12 But I'm also a 26 year old person standing  
13 before you today who wants to stay living in  
14 southeast Texas, who wants to have my babies here.  
15 Okay?

16 And when I hear people from out of state  
17 talk about our economic and ecological challenges and  
18 the numbers they represent, there's more than that.  
19 The 56 percent greater likelihood of having leukemia  
20 that children in the east end suffer is more than a  
21 challenge.

22 My generation requires more long term  
23

1 solutions at this point.

2 And while I badly want for the people of  
3 Port Arthur and Jefferson County to have jobs, look  
4 to the people that are hosting us today. They've  
5 released their own report and job comparison report.  
6 They conservatively estimate that less than 1700 jobs  
7 will be created in Texas and that maybe only 167 of  
8 them will be local.

9 So if you're going to keep talking about  
10 outsiders and people getting these jobs, they're not  
11 going to be your neighbors. And they might not be  
12 union labor. The more jobs you have, the better off  
13 we all are. The better jobs that union people have,  
14 the better our wages are.

15 I desperately want a real solution to this  
16 problem. But the solution is not in a short-term  
17 project that will irreparably damage the environment  
18 and only give us three years of semi-permanent jobs.  
19 Some of you will still have children in elementary  
20 school by the time this project is done.

21 It's a cost we literally can't afford.

22 I do not deny that it will create some of

23

1     these jobs. But I'm begging you to think about long  
2     term thinking.

3             The climate cannot support 24 million  
4     Texans who live here today if we have an average two  
5     to three degree increase every year. We cannot  
6     maintain or have the agricultural production to feed  
7     24 million Texans and their children. Texas will be  
8     made weaker, not stronger, by this pipeline. We  
9     cannot remain competitive economically given the  
10    environmental harm it will enable.

11            I'm asking you to reject this pipeline not  
12    only because I love this state -- and I love it, and  
13    I'm grateful -- but because I want Texas and America  
14    to be successful. We won't be healthy or rich in a  
15    world with runaway global heating and screwed up  
16    water supplies. It's not a cost I'm prepared to pay,  
17    and the consequences will out-live us all.

18            Thank you.

19            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.

20            (Applause and boos.)

21            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

22            Before we proceed to 34, I just wanted to

23

1     remind you that we want to hear all views. And we  
2     appreciate that you're very calm and quiet in  
3     listening to each other. And I thank you for that.  
4     And I think it would be great to continue that way so  
5     everyone feels that they have the freedom to express  
6     themselves. Thank you so much.

7                 Yes, please.

8                 MS. EDWARDS: My name is Nancy Edwards and  
9     I'm with the Sierra Club. And I want to say that I  
10    do not think this pipeline is going to help our  
11    national security; I think it's going to harm it.

12                All along the route from Canada to the  
13    United States there are detrimental effects. Where  
14    they dig it up in Canada they are making huge open  
15    pits which fill up with water which become  
16    contaminated lakes in the middle of pristine  
17    wilderness.

18                They cut down the trees in the boreal  
19    forest. This is right near the Arctic. And we are  
20    having a lot of trouble with ice melting in the  
21    Arctic, which is affecting our weather. It's  
22    affecting the weather we have now: Floods over here,

23

1 droughts over there, and record temperatures in 6000  
2 different large and small cities in Texas and in the  
3 south of the United States and the southwest.

4 So we can't encourage the production of  
5 more carbon dioxide, which is what this pipeline  
6 does.

7 The oil is removed from the sand with  
8 heat. This requires the burning of a lot of natural  
9 gas to create this heat, creating more CO2. This CO2  
10 is in Canada when it's created, but it doesn't stay  
11 there. It goes all over the globe, including where  
12 we are.

13 Then we want to put this into a pipeline  
14 and bring it to the United States. This will cross  
15 the Ogallala aquifer. This aquifer is very important  
16 to the agriculture of the United States, everything  
17 from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains.

18 If this oil spills it will contaminate the  
19 aquifer. There are no pipelines that don't have  
20 spills. Some are small, some are large. If we have  
21 a large one we're in serious trouble.

22 When the oil is refined in Port Arthur the  
23

1 pollution will be worse than from refining  
2 conventional oil. It will contaminate the air in  
3 Port Arthur and in cities to the east, such as New  
4 Orleans, and continuing to blow to the east.

5 The trail of this oil from mining to  
6 refining is a trail of pollution and contamination.  
7 It's not in our national interest to contaminate our  
8 nation.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: Number 35, please. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. BROWNING: Just to check, that is 35.

15 My name is Art Browning, A-r-t B-r-o-w-n-  
16 i-n-g.

17 I'm a retired petroleum geologist, not by  
18 choice so I understand a little bit about the need  
19 for jobs. I'm making it semi-retired, still in the  
20 business. But we'll see if I get a job after I say  
21 what I've got to say.

22 As I say, I'm from -- I didn't say. I'm

23

1 from Houston, with the Sierra Club, like several of  
2 my friends who just spoke. I want to talk a little  
3 bit more about the -- among the many reasons bringing  
4 up, I want to talk a little bit more about the really  
5 nasty nature of the stuff we're going to be bringing  
6 down from Canada. It's been mentioned that it's got  
7 lead, mercury, arsenic and stuff. Now in  
8 my career I've held sweet crude, and it looks like  
9 honey. It's nice stuff. I wouldn't want to get near  
10 this stuff. I really wouldn't want to hold it in my  
11 hand, that's for sure.

12 But we're really scraping the bottom of  
13 the barrel by using this stuff, by wanting to even  
14 bring this in. It really shows our addiction to  
15 energy, and to cheap fossil fuel energy.

16 Now I recognize that, as some people have  
17 said, we can't just instantaneously jump to what we  
18 need to be concentrating on, is renewable. Every  
19 drop of oil that I ever got out of the ground, I knew  
20 it would be used once and once only. And it's a  
21 shame that we burned it and didn't make lasting  
22 things.

23

1                   So we are addicted. And we need to be  
2     investing more in renewable sorts of energy that  
3     would also give jobs.

4                   Now I'd also like to speak for my Canadian  
5     friends. We get the impression here that everyone in  
6     Canada is in favor of this.

7                   My sister married a Canadian. She and her  
8     husband have been providing jobs with a small home-  
9     owned business they have up in Ontario. And when she  
10    heard that I would be coming here to speak out  
11    against this Keystone Pipeline she thanked me. She  
12    does not want their pristine natural land up there in  
13    the boreal forest of Alberta to be destroyed and  
14    using so much of the precious water that they have up  
15    there. So I also speak in her stead as well.

16                  Thank you.

17                  MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.  
18    Thank you very much.

19                  (Applause.)

20                  MS. COLEMAN: Number 36, please. Thank  
21    you.

22                  MS. SHAFTO: 37. He was 36.

23



1 MS. COLEMAN: I am sorry.

2 MS. SHAFTO: That's okay.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Number 37.

4 MS. SHAFTO: That's okay.

5 MS. COLEMAN: All right.

6 MS. SHAFTO: My name is Deborah Shafto, S-  
7 h-a-f-t-o. I'm from Houston. I'm from the Houston  
8 Peace and Justice Center and I'm from the Texas Green  
9 Party.

10 Arguments are made that if we don't accept  
11 this pipeline some other place, some other country  
12 will, and we will have lost our opportunity to be oil  
13 secure. There is unlimited sunshine and wind power,  
14 clean energy, renewable energy, the construction of  
15 which would create many jobs and great wealth.

16 We should be weaning ourselves off from  
17 the use of fossil fuels and not becoming more  
18 dependent on them. This is not a theme that big oil  
19 likes to hear, but it's the truth and everybody knows  
20 it.

21 Every scientist relying on factual data  
22 supports the fact that we are responsible for the

23

1     change in climate and weather patterns that have  
2     already begun to take place. During the PETM, the  
3     Paleocene, Eocene, thermal maximum, about 56 million  
4     years ago, warming took place over a period of 20,000  
5     years. There appears to have been a massive carbon  
6     dioxide release at the beginning of this era and the  
7     temperature rose nine degrees Fahrenheit.

8             That doesn't seem like a lot. There is  
9     evidence of massive flooding as the earth's ice  
10    melted and there were huge changes in kinds and  
11    appearances of species. Mother Nature was kind  
12    enough to sequester this excessive carbon in the form  
13    of coal, oil, gas and tar sands. This sequestration  
14    allowed the planet to cool and humankind to emerge  
15    and develop.

16            We have extracted a little less than half  
17    of the world's supply, and the bulk of the remaining  
18    resource lies under the North American boreal forest.  
19    Geologists tell us what the earth was like in the  
20    Eocene period. We were not there and we know enough  
21    to know we don't want to be there. We could not  
22    survive.

23

1                   Species developed and species died out  
2   over an extended period of time. Extraction,  
3   processing and burning of the hydrocarbons in the tar  
4   sands will return to the atmosphere what nature took  
5   150,000 years to sequester, and we will have  
6   accomplished this process in about 150 years. We  
7   have not allowed time for species to migrate or  
8   mutate. Die-offs have already begun in the rapidly  
9   acidifying oceans.

10                  The increased variability of our weather  
11   systems predicted by all of the models of global  
12   warming have already produced drought, famine, and  
13   massive death in South Africa and drought in the  
14   southern U.S. James Hansen, the greatly respected  
15   lead NASA climatologist, has said that extraction and  
16   burning the fuel in the tar sands will mean the end  
17   of mankind.

18                  In what kind of mind does the dominance of  
19   the United States take precedence over the survival  
20   of the species? What kind of profit could be  
21   possibly worth the risks to most of the existing  
22   forms of life on earth? Do we have to wait until we

1     are decimated and desperate to admit that we went too  
2     far? Will there be any left to notice and mourn the  
3     passing of what we might have been? Can we not stop  
4     our destructive behavior while we still have a chance  
5     at survival?

6             I implore you to give my grandchildren the  
7     chance to become grandparents themselves. Do not let  
8     this disastrous project proceed.

9             MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.  
10    We appreciate it.

11             (Applause.)

12             MS. COLEMAN: Number 38.

13             MS. CROZAT-WILLIAMS: Actually, I'm number  
14    36.

15             MS. COLEMAN: 36. Thank you. I thought  
16    there was a 36 somewhere.

17             MS. CROZAT-WILLIAMS: That's okay.

18             MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

19             MS. CROZAT-WILLIAMS: We're friends.

20             My name is Madeleine Crozat-Williams, M-a-  
21    d-e-l-e-i-n-e C-r-o-z-a-t dash Williams. And I'm an  
22    American. And I am against tar sands. I do not  
23

1 think it is in our national interests.

2 Why would over 1200 people choose to be  
3 arrested in Washington, D.C. over the past month for  
4 protesting against tar sand? Isn't the tar sands  
5 pipeline going to provide many, many jobs in a  
6 desperate economy?

7 The job estimates, as someone said before  
8 me, are greatly overstated. State Department  
9 projects only 5000 to 6000 jobs a year over three  
10 years, and many of those will be temporary jobs.  
11 That's less than 1000 jobs per state. 20,000 jobs,  
12 no.

13 And I might add that I have been working  
14 with a consortium of labor unions including SEIU and  
15 Good Jobs Houston in Houston for the past six, once  
16 on ways to find jobs in Houston because I know how  
17 much every one of you needs jobs. And in Houston  
18 this consortium is working on the city to provide  
19 green jobs.

20 Will the devastation be worth the risk of  
21 this less than 1000 jobs in Houston? No.

22 One, so far the TransCanadian Pipeline has

23

1     had almost five times the estimated spill rate.

2                 Two, tar sands are inefficient. Two tons  
3     of tar sands are used to produce one barrel of fuel.  
4     The production of one gallon of oil requires 35  
5     gallons of water. Three million homes can be heated  
6     with the amount of natural gas used in one day of  
7     production.

8                 Three, tar sands oil production will be  
9     one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gas. This  
10    increase in global warming will be devastating to the  
11    world.

12                Four the risk of tar spills in the  
13    Ogallala aquifer is just too high. The pipeline will  
14    go over the aquifer, which supplies drinking water  
15    for two million people and is the primary source of  
16    groundwater for 20 percent of U.S. agricultural  
17    production.

18                Five, then there are the health costs to  
19    humans from the refineries and burning of oil. This  
20    is a serious human rights and health rights issue.  
21    Increased asthma and lung disease, birth defects, and  
22    premature abortions from exposure to toxic chemicals,  
23

1 to name just a few. Increased incidence of heart  
2 disease.

3           Refineries are usually placed in low  
4 income neighborhoods and residents have to deal with  
5 the destruction of their health, as someone earlier  
6 said.

7           Let us compare this industry with an  
8 industry placed under scrutiny over 150 years ago.  
9 At the time it was said, sure, cotton and sugar  
10 plantations might not be the nicest thing, but what  
11 alternative does the south really have? How would we  
12 support our economy and our lifestyle without them?

13           Today we need to look at our dependence on  
14 such inefficient oil-based energy as tar sands as  
15 another institution that needs to be abolished. We  
16 need to move quickly to renewable energy sources.

17           Do not doubt for a minute the ability of  
18 American science and ingenuity to do this. There  
19 will be huge numbers of jobs. Don't be duped by the  
20 intimidation of industrial greed. Don't allow this  
21 pipeline. Let's create a future of clean renewable  
22 energy and save the planet for our children and  
23

1     grandchildren.

2                     Thank you very much.

3                     MS. COLEMAN:   Thank you for your views.

4     We appreciate it.

5                     (Applause.)

6                     MS. COLEMAN:   Number 38.

7                     MS. WREN:    Hi.   It's Allie Wren, W-r-e-n.

8                     I brought my water up here with me because

9     at a dollar a gallon I don't want it to get stolen.

10                    I don't think that the corporations care  
11     that this is passing through our aquifers.  They've  
12     already got it set up.  They've probably got a bunch  
13     of jobs bottling water, too, and selling it back to  
14     us.  So you can look forward to that kind of thing in  
15     the future.

16                    I know that we all -- anybody who is here  
17     in Texas -- the people who can afford it, they leave  
18     Texas during the summer.  But the rest of us, we're  
19     here.  And we had a hot one.  I don't know who would  
20     think anybody would make up something like climate  
21     change, but it would have to be a really sick  
22     individual.

23



1           There are other opportunities for jobs. I  
2 know it's tough for everybody. To have to hold out  
3 any longer than we have already has got to be really  
4 difficult. But sometimes sacrifices have to be made.  
5 And sometimes the easy answer isn't the right answer.

6           It's a nice little slogan. Everybody has  
7 t-shirts that say that this will create jobs, period.  
8 And that seems to be the only thing that we're  
9 considering in this. But the implications are far-  
10 reaching. And even though Texas has a bad education  
11 system, I don't think we're too dense to look beyond  
12 what's being fed to us in the convenient bite size  
13 package: more jobs.

14           One thing to be aware of, too, is if you  
15 look at -- if you're doing a search on Google it will  
16 most likely pull up things that you've already seen.  
17 Like if you like Fox News it will pull up more things  
18 by Fox News. They have to get a little bit tricky if  
19 you want to really get the broad picture of what's  
20 going on. They're not making it easy for us to share  
21 information human to human, individual to individual.

22           You know, I was kind of discouraged by our

23

1 line out there that we had to be, you know, broken up  
2 into categories because the earth is all of ours.

3 Something that's underlying a lot of the  
4 arguments here is that somehow since this oil is  
5 being processed in America that it's American oil.  
6 It's corporate oil still.

7 The corporations have seen record profits  
8 even as the price at the tank has been soaring for  
9 us. They're not hurting. And to think that they're  
10 somehow a benevolent force coming in to help us out  
11 is kind of unbelievable, knowing their history.

12 So we're not guaranteed cheaper oil.  
13 We're not even guaranteed that we're going to be the  
14 ones using this oil.

15 So I just -- you know, the good jobs are  
16 all going to China making the wind mill and the solar  
17 panels. Those are long-lasting jobs; they're not  
18 temporary like the Keystone XL project is just  
19 creating temporary jobs. Those are the jobs that we  
20 need to be looking for. Why are those going overseas  
21 and we're stuck with the jobs that hurt our health.

22 Thanks.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your views.

2 We appreciate it.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Number 39, please.

5 MS. FOYTLIN: Hello. My name is Cherri  
6 Foytlin. That's C-h-e-r-r-i, Foytlin is F-o-y-t-l-i-  
7 n.

8 How are you doing today?

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

10 MS. FOYTLIN: You know, we've been hearing  
11 a lot about jobs today, 20,000 jobs. And I like that  
12 number; it sounds good. I like it. And I know that  
13 the State Department put out a report saying that it  
14 was far less than that.

15 But I was talking to somebody outside, one  
16 of these gentlemen, and they said that's like--  
17 believing the government was like wrestling with the  
18 south-bound end of a north-bound bull, meaning  
19 they're full of shit. I believe it. Sure.

20 But the thing is, I think they're right.  
21 I mean I think they're wrong, too. I think that  
22 20,000 jobs is probably a low number. I think it's  
23

1     probably going to get up in like the hundreds of  
2     thousands of jobs, honestly, because once you start  
3     adding up all the doctors and the nurses and the  
4     people that are going to make the medical beds for  
5     the kids that have leukemia --

6                     (Cheers and applause.)

7                     MS. FOYTLIN: Once you get the insurance  
8     adjusters for Medicaid and Medicare and ObamaCare  
9     that I know you guys love so much, because I know I  
10    do, and the pharmaceutical situations. We're talking  
11    about a lot of jobs for a lot of people.

12                    Now look, since 1990 there's been more  
13    than 110 million gallons spilled from the nation's  
14    pipelines. It's not that safe, guys. And they're  
15    not made for this particular crude, this tar sand  
16    crude that's coming in now.

17                    My husband's an oil worker. And we were  
18    devastated during the moratorium. Now there's been  
19    times that I was standing in line trying to decide if  
20    I was going to feed my babies or provide Tylenol for  
21    the little guy. You understand?

22                    I know what it's like to be without a job.

23

1 I do. It's important to me. But the truth of the  
2 matter is that there's a choice that we all have to  
3 make, and that's whether we are going to put profits  
4 over the lives of people. And people are more  
5 important.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. FOYTLIN: Our kids are more important.  
8 We are not a disposable population. Okay? That's  
9 the truth of it.

10 So, all right. So here's the deal. I  
11 want the president to know -- because I'm assuming  
12 you're going to go back and talk to the president  
13 since he gets to make the final gig on this, okay?  
14 So I want the president to know this:

15 I want him to know that I love every  
16 person in this room, and that I love my family and my  
17 Gulf Coast. So whether or not he decides to make  
18 that pipeline go in, I will fight with every last  
19 inch of me to protect these people, whether they boo  
20 me or not. Okay? Because I care about you, man. I  
21 ain't letting you go down like that.

22 And you know what else? I'll find you

23

1     some other jobs and I'll bring them here if I can. I  
2     promise you that.

3                 This isn't it, guys. This is just not it.

4                 MS. COLEMAN: Thanks for your comments.

5                 (Applause.)

6                 MS. COLEMAN: Number 40, please. Thank  
7     you.

8                 MR. APURIM: Good evening. I am Alan Alan  
9     Apurim from Houston, with the Harris County Green  
10    Party.

11                MS. COLEMAN: We just need you to spell  
12    the last name, please.

13                MR. APURIM: A-p as in 'papa'-u-r-i-m as  
14    in 'mike.'

15                Some spoke of 20,000 manufacturing jobs.  
16    What I'm about to propose would employ a million  
17    people.

18                Tar sands oil will not replace the growing  
19    demand in India and China. 173 million barrels of  
20    oil will require five billion barrels of water to  
21    extract. Others may speak of the toxicity of the tar  
22    sands oil whose poisons are a constant danger to

23

1 present and future generations' health.

2 If accidents can happen, they will happen.

3 Some speakers lie about this, but its historical fact  
4 that there have been many blowouts in southeast  
5 Texas. When a pipeline leaks oil it contaminates the  
6 aquifer. And as oil is extracted it affects both air  
7 and water.

8 Natural gas leaks are a hazard because it  
9 spreads out close to the ground, then ignites when it  
10 encounters a spark, burning a wide area.

11 Suppose, instead of oil, we had a fuel  
12 that could be produced locally, not imported at all,  
13 without pollution or refining that can be liquefied  
14 to be piped anywhere if needed. It could be used to  
15 transmit both electricity and digital messages  
16 without need for step-up transformers and can be  
17 produced using sustainable cheap electricity produced  
18 by ocean current turbine generators, wind power  
19 generators, or solar power.

20 That fuel is hydrogen. It's non-  
21 polluting. And if it leaks, it rises straight up.

22 In World War II the U.S. geared up for war  
23

1 by converting automobile factories to build war  
2 machines. A million people could be employed  
3 converting existing automobiles to run on hydrogen  
4 and building wind and ocean turbines for good, cheap  
5 electricity.

6 To get the comprehensive scientific facts,  
7 go to website braun2012.us. That is spelled b-r-a-u-  
8 n2012.us.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: We appreciate it.

13 Number 41. Thank you.

14 MR. PARRAS: My name is Juan Parras, J-u-  
15 a-n, last name P-a-r-r-a-s.

16 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

17 MR. PARRAS: And I represent a nonprofit  
18 organization in Texas called Tejas Texas  
19 Environmental Justice Advocacy Services.

20 And I would first of all like to remind  
21 you that it was under President Clinton's  
22 administration that he signed into law -- or the

23



1 executive order 12898, dealing with environmental  
2 justice. And to be brief, in a nutshell, what it  
3 says that communities that are already overburdened  
4 with pollution, you should do everything to prevent  
5 them from getting any more pollution.

6 And I tell you that because it's strange  
7 that she is the Secretary of State and knows more  
8 clearly than anyone and should understand what  
9 environmental justice is all about. After all, it  
10 was signed by President Clinton.

11 So where am I going? I'm going to the  
12 fact that this oil, this filthy dirty oil to be  
13 refined is coming to communities of color. We heard  
14 that mentioned earlier. It's coming to Port Arthur  
15 and it's coming to the Houston area.

16 I live in the Houston area, where somebody  
17 else also mentioned that we have a 56 percent higher  
18 risk of leukemia if you live along the Houston ship  
19 channel. We have high rates of cancer, high rates of  
20 asthma, high rates of brain tumors.

21 We have 18-wheelers, so many of them in  
22 our community that we refer to them as the family

1 cars. It's just a family car.

2 We have a lot of trains. We have a lot of  
3 ships. We have a lot of moving mobile sources that  
4 pollute. And we don't have a good transportation  
5 system in Houston, as you know. Just look at Ike and  
6 Hurricane Katrina, how it took a lot of us, you know,  
7 13, 14 hours just to get out of Houston. So we have  
8 a lot of pollution.

9 But the other thing that I heard a while  
10 ago -- I've been hearing over the news is that we  
11 need to declare our independence from foreign oil.  
12 And then they keep -- I don't know, but foreign oil  
13 to me is Canadian oil, too. It should be included.

14 About homeland security. They talk about  
15 homeland security. Well, you know what, we may have  
16 a reason to feel insecure because of what we have  
17 done to other countries around the world.

18 We talk about, you know, American-haters.  
19 Yeah, there's a lot of people that hate us because we  
20 exploit other territories and then we don't want to  
21 clean up. Take the Chevron case in Ecuador.

22 Now the other thing is that the price of  
23

1 gasoline at our pumps is not going to go down because  
2 this pipeline is coming down here. And I also don't  
3 want to bust your bubble by thinking that this  
4 pipeline is going to save our nation from  
5 unemployment crisis that we have. It's not going to  
6 help at all.

7           The real issue is that, look, we talk  
8 about foreign oil. Why don't we get Shell, Exxon  
9 Mobile, Chevron and Texaco to leave those other  
10 countries and come develop and seek oil in our -- you  
11 know, 49 states because I'd hate for them to go to  
12 Alaska.

13           But let me see what else.

14           There was a union that I used to work  
15 with. It was St. James Citizens for Jobs in the  
16 Environment. And our title was Jobs in the  
17 Environment because we worked with unions, BASF out  
18 of Baton Rouge, and our idea was to protect jobs and  
19 also to protect the environment.

20           So I just want to tell my brothers and  
21 sisters here with the union movement that your  
22 biggest fight and your biggest challenge is what's

23

1     happening to our nation right now, when there's  
2     candidates that want to make all states right-to-work  
3     states, when they are making the unions in Wisconsin,  
4     you know, deny or take away their collective  
5     bargaining rights. That's your biggest battle, I  
6     think.

7                     And I want to thank you for your time.  
8     Three minutes seemed like a long time, but it's a  
9     very short time.

10                    Thank you.

11                    MS. COLEMAN: Well, I appreciate it.  
12     Thank you so much.

13                    (Applause.)

14                    MS. COLEMAN: Yes, number 42, please.  
15     Thank you.

16                    MR. ESPINOSA: My name is Blas -- that's  
17     B-l-a-s -- Espinosa -- E-s-p-i-n-o-s-a -- III.

18                    For five generations and counting my  
19     family and friends have lived within a two-mile  
20     radius of the Houston ship channel, a low income  
21     community that neighbors the largest petrochemical  
22     refinery complex in the nation. Within the 20 years

23

1 of my existence my community has been subjected to  
2 record amounts of carcinogens and volatile organic  
3 compound emissions into our air, the most reported  
4 chemical spills on our land, and daily concentrations  
5 of radiation in our tap water.

6 According to the University of Texas,  
7 children living in this cluster of disease have a 56  
8 percent greater chance of developing leukemia than  
9 kids living elsewhere.

10 I came to speak on behalf of my global and  
11 local community to urge everyone listening to look at  
12 the facts and oppose the proposed Keystone XL  
13 Pipeline and the catastrophic exploitation of the  
14 Canadian tar sands.

15 Scraping up the largest pool of carbon on  
16 the continent calls for cutting down the remaining of  
17 the boreal rainforest, destroying one of the world's  
18 largest and last pristine rainforests our planet uses  
19 to protect us from harmful ozone.

20 Transporting the crude through the  
21 Ogallala aquifer will make about a third of our  
22 nation's water vulnerable to this corporation's

1       clumsy track record and irreversible contamination.

2               Finally, refining the tar sands will emit  
3       three times as much greenhouse gas pollution as  
4       conventional oil, making our planet what  
5       climatologist Dr. James Hansen of NASA concluded,  
6       uninhabitable.

7               There's no justification in sacrificing  
8       the last of our most fundamental sources of life  
9       itself for a short-term project that, according to  
10      TransCanada, anticipates exporting the majority of  
11      the oil to foreign countries and increasing our gas  
12      prices.

13              So instead of succumbing to the dirtiest  
14      form of oil on the planet, let's secure our energy  
15      resources for our machines, and most importantly our  
16      species, by investing in clean energy that will  
17      provide permanent jobs and sustain the life of our  
18      planet for us and our children.

19              Thank you.

20              MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.

21      Thank you so much.

22              (Applause.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: Number 43.

2 MS. FRUNTIS-STOWE: Maria Fruntis-Stowe.

3 Yesterday the CEO of General Electric was  
4 confronted about the fact that he's the head of Jobs  
5 for America in Washington but he's exporting a bunch  
6 of jobs. He just export -- he said, 'Well, it was  
7 only 20,000 jobs.' Only 20,000 jobs. That's what  
8 you guys have been obsessing about all these hours.  
9 20,000 jobs for an American corporation ain't shit.  
10 It's nothing.

11 And what we see in this room are people  
12 who are nibbling at the cheese of American  
13 corporations. American corporations have almost  
14 destroyed the cosmos. There's no end to greed.

15 The one problem that billionaires have --  
16 I practiced in New York; I worked in the cancer  
17 hospital in New York. One of my patients in New York  
18 was -- they were billionaires. The problem the  
19 billionaires have is they don't have enough money.  
20 They don't have enough money.

21 And all you people here worrying about  
22 your jobs, you're fools. I'm sorry to say, all of us

23

1     here are fools because we don't know that we have  
2     power. We don't have people like Malcolm, we don't  
3     have people like Martin Luther King to lead us.

4                   And what do we have in Texas? My father,  
5     Dr. Constantine Fruntis, came to Beaumont, Texas and  
6     worked in Beaumont and Port Arthur. He came in 1936  
7     from a Greek island. His brother, my uncle, became  
8     the president of Greece. We came from a clean island  
9     where there was no pollution. There were also no  
10    cars and no gasoline.

11                   What are we saying in terms of the  
12    environment? We constantly hear -- Look at the  
13    situation that happened in Japan. Scientists know  
14    it's going to happen? No, they don't know it's going  
15    to happen. They don't know about earthquakes; they  
16    don't know about fires. Look at the whole thing that  
17    almost happened in New Mexico. I mean there have  
18    been disaster after disaster, floods, and increasing  
19    numbers of those.

20                   We're being fools. The environmental  
21    issues are real.

22                   When I was at Memorial Sloan-Kettering

23



1 Cancer Center in New York I cryostated tumor cells  
2 and I saw the contamination that causes that cancer.  
3 Right now I have a child that's a patient of mine in  
4 Houston, Texas.

5 We came to Texas, my daughter went to  
6 Andover and then Yale University and then Einstein  
7 Medical School and then Harvard Law School. Then we  
8 went to an Indian territory where on the reservation  
9 in North Dakota people have been decimated. They  
10 have been killed. They have been destroyed.

11 America can destroy people, and it does.  
12 And it continues to do that. And that's not the way  
13 to make peace. Go to the Middle East and slaughter  
14 people. Everyone in the world hates Americans. Why?  
15 Because we have war after war after war.

16 I was on the aircraft carrier the Coral  
17 Sea. It's a disgusting horrible war machine.

18 That's what we do constantly. We have to  
19 stop. We have to have the capacity to think again  
20 and to realize that we can either be suicidal, which  
21 is what we are now -- and all you people in orange  
22 and then all you guys with the initials, the

23

1 corporate guys in the back with the initials on their  
2 sleeves, those are the rich guys. But not the  
3 billionaires; they're not here.

4 So think about -- try to think about what  
5 you're doing. There's poverty in Texas and you're  
6 just nibbling at the edges of the cheese.

7 The heads of every single corporation in  
8 Houston -- Mobile, Texaco, all of them said, 'No,  
9 we're not paying taxes; no, we won't do it. We're  
10 not doing it. You know what we'll do? We'll leave.'  
11 So what are you all begging -- you're begging these  
12 companies that have already said, 'We're going to go.  
13 We'll go offshore.' They're already mostly offshore.

14 American corporations are not American.  
15 Wake up. There was an Arab spring. Where in the  
16 hell is the American spring. Where in the hell is  
17 the Texas spring? I don't see it coming down the  
18 road; I just see suicidality.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Number 44, please. Thank  
22 you.

23

1 MS. CORONA: Hi. My name is Victoria  
2 Corona, C-o-r-o-n-a.

3 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

4 MS. CORONA: I'm wearing a necklace today  
5 that belonged to my grandma. I lost her to cancer.

6 I grew up in the neighborhoods that are  
7 going to be refining the tar sands that are coming  
8 here. In that area we have a 56 percent higher rate  
9 of cancer.

10 I'm 21 years old and my entire life I have  
11 lived in a community that neighbors the largest  
12 petrochemical refinery complex in the nation. As a  
13 child I attended J. R. Harris Elementary down the  
14 street from a refining corporation. When I got older  
15 I went to Chavez High School, an environmental magnet  
16 school coerced within a quarter mile of three large  
17 petrochemical plants.

18 My community has bore the blunt of Texas,  
19 accounting for most emissions of toxic chemicals and  
20 carcinogens in the air, and most chemical spills,  
21 most water violations, and most production of  
22 hazardous waste. As a result, I have witnessed large

1 amounts of asthma, cancer, mutations, and other very  
2 serious health problems.

3 I came today to speak against the proposed  
4 Keystone XL Pipeline because of the proliferation of  
5 disease it will cause not only in my neighborhood,  
6 but around the world. Extracting and transporting  
7 the Canadian tar sands requires destroying one of the  
8 largest and last pristine rainforests in the world  
9 and putting the nation's largest water supply at risk  
10 for irreversible contamination.

11 Refining the tar sands calls for emitting  
12 36 million tons of carbon dioxide per day, causing a  
13 spike in global warming and degrading our planet into  
14 a climate that NASA considers uninhabitable.

15 I urge you all to consider those who have  
16 had their lives, families and cultures cut short to  
17 the relentless oil industry. Now is the time to  
18 change the course of our future and take advantage of  
19 the abundant clean energy resources that have been  
20 available.

21 I just want to remind you that tar sand  
22 oil contains on average eleven times more sulfur,

23

1 eleven times more nickel, six times more nitrogen,  
2 and five times more lead than conventional oil. And  
3 I don't want it refined in my neighborhood; I don't  
4 want it anywhere.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Number 45. Thank you.

9 MR. KELLEY: Yes. Good afternoon,  
10 everyone. My name is Hilton Kelley. I'm the founder  
11 and director of the Community In Power and  
12 Development Association. My first name is spelled H-  
13 i-l-t-o-n; last name K-e-l-l-e-y.

14 I'm here today to speak on behalf of my  
15 community. The West Side Port Arthur area is home to  
16 at least 3500 people or more. And we have at least  
17 five petrochemical facilities in our community.

18 We have a disproportionate number of kids  
19 that have to carry nebulizers and take breathing  
20 treatments before they go to bed and some before they  
21 go to school in the mornings. There's a large number  
22 of people here that are on dialysis. We have three

23

1 dialysis clinics here in the city of Port Arthur.

2 And there are a large number of people that are  
3 presently suffering with cancer, and some have passed  
4 on from cancer.

5 Since I've been back home I know at least  
6 ten people that have passed away from cancer: brain  
7 cancer, liver cancer, lung cancer -- and some of them  
8 are even as young as 16 years old.

9 We know that this nation needs fuel to  
10 propel itself. We know that individuals need jobs to  
11 put food on the table. But one should not have to  
12 sacrifice their life or sacrifice their family life  
13 to put bread on the table.

14 We're asking that the Keystone Pipeline  
15 not come to Port Arthur, Texas. We're just starting  
16 to come into compliance with the Clean Air Act laws.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. KELLEY: We know that this tar sand  
19 will increase our hydrogen sulfide levels in the  
20 environment. We know that the 1-3 butadiene, which  
21 is a known cancer-causing chemical, can also increase  
22 in our environment. And we have a disproportionate

23

1     number of people in our community that are presently  
2     suffering from the illnesses that follow these type  
3     of toxins.

4             Port Arthur, Texas was asked to take on  
5     some wastes by the United States Army about two years  
6     ago. It was called the VX nerve gas waste.  
7     Something happened in Indiana to where they had to  
8     get rid of it and they had to get rid of it quick.  
9     They didn't want to take it in Boston. They didn't  
10    want to take it in Washington. They didn't want to  
11    take it anywhere else. But our then-mayor, Oscar  
12    Ortiz, said, 'Bring it to Port Arthur; we'll take  
13    it.'

14            And they tried to do a back-door deal.  
15    But we understood what was going on. And they didn't  
16    even give us a public notice.

17            Port Arthur has always been open to taking  
18    on all sorts of projects without even looking at the  
19    underlying issues that may be associated with it.

20            We have some major, major environmental  
21    issues in the city of Port Arthur that we are just  
22    starting to address. We have been talking with some

1 of the local industries and looking at new ways in  
2 which they can reduce the amount of toxins that they  
3 dump into the air. And now we're looking at getting  
4 tar sands, which is laden with heavy metals and  
5 higher sulfur contents.

6 We need to keep southeast Texas in  
7 compliance with the Clean Air Act laws so we can  
8 continue to do business. At five o'clock in the  
9 afternoon when I go out and I look at the refinery  
10 traffic leaving this area, they're not coming to Port  
11 Arthur. They're leaving the area. And smoke is just  
12 flying behind the wheels. But early in the morning  
13 you see everybody coming back.

14 Port Arthur is not really benefiting from  
15 all of the great wealth that these industries are  
16 supposed to bring.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. KELLEY: If we're going to create more  
19 jobs, let's look at renewable energies. Let's look  
20 at ways in which we can move forward and not  
21 backwards.

22 Thank you.

23



1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

3 What we would like to do is have one  
4 speaker now and then just take just a few moments. I  
5 think maybe people want to answer their phones, take  
6 a rest break. And then we'll come back together in  
7 ten minutes. If that's okay with you, then we'll  
8 have this one speaker and then do that.

9 Thank you.

10 And for those who have departed or are  
11 departing, thank you so much for coming and taking  
12 the time to share your opinions with us. I want to  
13 repeat that we're very, very serious about listening  
14 and conveying your opinions back to Washington.

15 So, please, go ahead.

16 MS. CORONA: Okay.

17 My name is Elva Corona, and it's E-l-v-a,  
18 Corona, C-o-r-o-n-a.

19 I grew up in East End, Houston. And for  
20 the majority of my life I have lived within a quarter  
21 mile of the largest petrochemical refinery complex in  
22 the nation. This is where I have raised my four

23

1 children and have had to send them to schools that  
2 are blocks away from the refinery.

3 Every day me and some others from my  
4 community walk around the neighborhood where we live.  
5 We are forced to see and breathe a skyline of tall  
6 towers that release a constant smokestack of  
7 poisonous chemicals, including record amounts of  
8 benzene into the air.

9 It breaks my heart to see so many children  
10 in this pollution. This is not the type of  
11 environment that any parent would like to raise their  
12 children in.

13 As you can tell, our community already has  
14 its problems. And bringing the tar sand oil to  
15 Houston would only be adding fuel to the fire.

16 I would hate to see the conditions in my  
17 neighborhood worsen for the people in my area already  
18 suffering from the pollution.

19 I have lost family and friends, including  
20 my mother, to cancer and other serious health  
21 problems. Anybody that looks at the facts will see  
22 that the costs of the tar sands greatly outweigh any  
23

1       benefits.

2                   Think about the best interests of our  
3       children and move on to clean air that will provide  
4       long-lasting jobs and a healthier planet.

5                   Thank you very much.

6                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7                   (Applause.)

8                   MS. COLEMAN: So we will take a ten-minute  
9       break.

10                  Again, I thank you for this wonderful  
11       display of American democracy. And we will see you  
12       in ten minutes.

13                  (Recess.)

14                  MS. COLEMAN: Okay. If you wouldn't mind,  
15       those in the back, to please take the seats because  
16       we want to start.

17                  As we begin the next -- the continuation  
18       of the program and the meeting and hearing your  
19       views, I wanted to mention that, though we have done  
20       very well, we still may have more people signed up  
21       than we have time for. And I'd like to give us the  
22       maximum opportunity to hear everyone.

23

1                   So with your forbearance, I would like to  
2     ask that we try to give our point in two minutes.  If  
3     we can do that then we can try to get everyone to the  
4     mike and we can hear their views.

5                   Secondly, I wanted to reiterate that I  
6     can't tell you how much we appreciate that you have  
7     been a wonderful audience who has really extended  
8     your viewpoint and your respect for each other.  This  
9     is very admirable, Port Arthur, and please, let's  
10    continue that through the end of this evening.

11                  So while there was a break there were two  
12    people who came to my attention to speak.  One is Mr.  
13    Shane Howard, tax assessor, collector, for Jefferson  
14    County.  Is he available to speak at this point?

15                  Yes.  Thank you.

16                  MR. HOWARD:  Hi.  Thank you very much.

17                  Again, my name is Shane Howard, I'm tax  
18    assessor, collector, for Jefferson County.

19                  I think the first order of business is to  
20    say this is a great display of what this country is  
21    about.  And, so, you know, it's a beautiful thing to  
22    see.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HOWARD: I think it bears mentioning  
3 that the very carbon-based energy that we still use -  
4 - and we use in great amounts -- we cannot wish  
5 windmills, we cannot wish solar panels, we cannot  
6 wish these things into existence the way that some  
7 people would like.

8 I think if you look over the 100 years of  
9 oil being used to power this country, to power its  
10 development, to build middle class communities, some  
11 of the very people that are saying they've suffered  
12 also have seen the rise of a middle class in ways  
13 that they would never be able to see in other parts  
14 of the country throughout our history. And I think  
15 that that bears mentioning.

16 We are an energy-based -- we are a carbon-  
17 based economy, whether we like it or not. We still  
18 continue to invest in alternative energies. However,  
19 we don't do so at the expense of the very development  
20 that we move forward.

21 I may want a different type of food for  
22 one day on my table. But for right now I'm going to

23

1 take the meat that I can kill that's out in my woods.

2 And that's what we have available to us.

3 If you look at the history of safety, if  
4 you look at the history of addressing some of the  
5 environmental concerns and environmental justice  
6 concerns that people have experienced -- I grew up in  
7 Port Arthur. I remember what it used to be like to  
8 wake up with that yellow film on top of my car. That  
9 doesn't exist today.

10 And we need to give the energy industry  
11 credit for the processes that they've undertaken with  
12 tens of billions of dollars to address these real  
13 concerns and make things better while also producing  
14 the energy that we need.

15 We need to build this pipeline. We need  
16 to put people to work. And we need to power this  
17 community and this nation forward.

18 And so I would encourage you to understand  
19 that this community -- if everybody that's for this  
20 project will stand up or clap, I think you'll see  
21 where most of this community is.

22 MS. COLEMAN: All right.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. HOWARD: And so with respect to those  
3 that are concerned about specific health concerns and  
4 things like that, there's a neat little thing called  
5 an Environmental Impact Statement that is done with  
6 some of the most stringent requirements for both  
7 personal health as well as environmental health.  
8 Those have been accomplished and achieved. Let's  
9 build this pipeline. The interests are real but  
10 they've been addressed.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. COLEMAN: Another person, Mr. John  
15 Beard, who is a council member for District 5, is he  
16 available to speak?

17 Thank you very much, sir, please.

18 MR. BEARD: Thank you. Good evening to  
19 everyone.

20 There are a number of concerns that I have  
21 in my position as city councilman here in Port  
22 Arthur, representing half of the city, the western  
23

1 half that has virtually all of the refineries that  
2 are here that are going to be affected. And right  
3 now the city of Port Arthur is in the midst of an  
4 economic program called the Environmental Justice  
5 Initiative.

6 But when I look at what we're talking  
7 about here in dealing with some of these issues with  
8 the pipeline -- and, granted, it's great to have  
9 jobs; it's great to have opportunity. As my  
10 counterpart across the aisle and also in the county  
11 said, that that's what America is about, about doing  
12 business, about building and having opportunity.

13 But when I look at that west side of Port  
14 Arthur and the western part of the city in general, I  
15 find that a number of those things are missing us. A  
16 number of those opportunities are not coming to the  
17 city. There's so much talk about jobs --

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BEARD: -- and opportunity. But where  
20 is the opportunity for Port Arthur?

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. BEARD: One of the phrases I'd like to  
23



1 coin is that without economic justice there can be no  
2 environmental justice. And the environment is  
3 critical to where we live.

4 Just as recently as yesterday one of our  
5 local refiners in the west end of town had an H2S  
6 release: hydrogen sulfide.

7 Back in 2007 there were four incidences  
8 between July and August of that year where this same  
9 company -- and I'm not going to say any names for  
10 fear of embarrassing anyone; that's not my intent.  
11 But that same company had a series of releases that  
12 caused quite a number of people to get sick and ill.  
13 As a matter of fact, it filled up both of the  
14 emergency rooms in hospitals in Port Arthur as well  
15 as Beaumont.

16 MR. BEARD: And those people are still  
17 continuing to suffer the effects today.

18 Now in anything man builds there's an  
19 opportunity for failure. And things can happen. But  
20 there has got to be some justice for the citizens of  
21 Port Arthur for those who are going to make the  
22 sacrifice to have this processed here in their

1 community, almost in their own backyard.

2 So I hope that you take that under consideration when  
3 you look at this, that it's not only about the jobs  
4 that are elsewhere, but it's about the jobs that are  
5 here and the people that are here and how they're  
6 going to be affected.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
9 comments.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: So now we will return to the  
12 next person in line, perhaps it was 47 or 48.

13 Here we go.

14 Thank you. Please state your name and  
15 affiliation. Thank you.

16 MS. NIETO: Hello. My name is Yudith  
17 Nieto. It's Y-u-d-i-t-h N-i-e-t-o.

18 Well, I'm here about the Keystone XL  
19 Pipeline. I'm not agreeing with it. I live down the  
20 street from the Valero chemical plants. And, well,  
21 living there isn't exactly fun. I went to school  
22 there down in Manchester. And while growing up,

23

1     going to school, we were trained to hide under our  
2     desks in case of an explosion or a leak.

3             And, well, we were taught to live in fear,  
4     to live in fear going back home and to live in fear  
5     leaving home because there is no other place to go.

6             I didn't always live in this country. I  
7     came from Mexico and I got here when I was like six  
8     years old. So all of that seems so surreal to me, to  
9     have to be trained to, you know, hide away from  
10    chemicals that we knew we weren't going to escape and  
11    if there was an explosion we wouldn't survive.

12            So, you know, just knowing that and  
13    hearing people say that this pipeline is safe and  
14    secure, it's funny to me because I know these people  
15    probably don't live down the street from where they  
16    work, and I'm pretty sure they don't want to spend a  
17    lot of time there after they've left work.

18            So, you know, consider that, living in a  
19    place like that seeing your children hide under desks  
20    and, you know, fear for their lives. Is that really  
21    the kind of future you want for your child?

22            And I know that you don't have a child

23

1     going to school down the street from where you work  
2     as well, and you wouldn't want them to. So just  
3     consider that. See if you actually want to have  
4     something like that built in your home, down the  
5     street from you.

6             I have come to find out that 90 percent of  
7     the refining for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline  
8     will most likely occur in the refineries where I  
9     live. And I refuse to live that way. I refuse to  
10    breathe in that kind of air, that pollution.

11            And I don't want to have cancer. And I  
12    don't want my kids to grow up with defects. And I  
13    don't want my family to live in a place like that.

14            So, no, I don't support the Keystone XL  
15    Pipeline. Thank you.

16            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
17    I appreciate it.

18            (Applause.)

19            MS. COLEMAN: So the next person -- I  
20    think it might be 48 or 49... Here we go. Thank  
21    you.

22            MS. SCHULTZ: Good evening. And thank you

23

1 to the representatives from the State Department for  
2 listening to us and conveying to the decision makers  
3 the concerns that you are hearing from the people of  
4 this region related to the Keystone Pipeline.

5 My name is Mary, M-a-r-y, Schultz, S-c-h-  
6 u-l-t-z. I'm from Houston. I'm a Texan. I'm a  
7 mother. And I'm an active member of the Lone Star  
8 Chapter of the Sierra Club.

9 I'm here today because each of us has only  
10 one life to live. And it's the responsibility of  
11 government officials to prevent, not to foster,  
12 threats to those lives.

13 From my research I have become convinced  
14 that the extraction, transport and refining of tar  
15 sands heavy crude oil introduces known threats to the  
16 lives of residents in the vicinity of each part of  
17 those processes, each of those production stages.

18 I also wanted to just quickly allude to  
19 what has been voiced repeatedly here today. A lot of  
20 people seem to have a whole lot of confidence in the  
21 EIS, which has been completed by the State  
22 Department, as though everything in there assures  
23

1 people that all environmental risks have been  
2 resolved. That simply is not the case. The State  
3 Department made certain -- they made their own  
4 definitions, limitations and parameters in doing the  
5 EIS. And there's a lot of that that still is  
6 contested.

7 One very brief example is that it was  
8 stated in the EIS that only -- that there were no  
9 communities whose sole source of drinking water came  
10 from anyplace along the pipeline route. Well, for  
11 one thing, Lufkin, Texas has 100 percent of its  
12 drinking water --

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. SCHULTZ: -- coming from that  
15 particular place. And there is high risk of pipeline  
16 ruptures.

17 Another thing that's stated was that  
18 anything within -- there's not been any risk  
19 documented within ten miles of the watershed -- safe  
20 watershed within ten miles. But there have been  
21 others documented within 30 miles.

22 So my only point here is that the fact of  
23

1 the EIS, it was something that was asked for, but  
2 it's not to be considered the be-all and end-all.

3 And then my last comment, since we have a  
4 shortened time, is really, as a mom, my daughter is  
5 30 years old. And every single time she comes back  
6 home to Houston she gets debilitating upper  
7 respiratory infections that she doesn't have in all  
8 the places she has lived throughout the U.S. and  
9 Asia. So she's impacted by the environment in our  
10 air in Houston because she has a sensitive structure.  
11 And to me that is just another example of the air  
12 quality problems that come from the refining.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: All right. Number 50.

17 MR. GUAJARDO: Good evening.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Good evening.

19 MR. GUAJARDO: My name is Emmanuel  
20 Guajardo, E-m-m-a-n-u-e-l, last name, G-u-a-j-a-r-d-  
21 o. Just an inhabitant of this beautiful earth, just  
22 living in Houston.

23

1                   So jobs, jobs, jobs, you know, it seems to  
2   be all our concern. I mean we all need the  
3   necessities and comforts that jobs give us. There's  
4   no doubt about that. We need to clothe, shelter and  
5   feed our families. I can't argue with this. But at  
6   what price, you know? I mean foreign oil, local oil,  
7   all of that.

8                   I mean will this pipeline bring back the  
9   men and women fighting overseas? Will it provide the  
10  jobs for them when they do? Will it provide jobs for  
11  me and other locals? I don't think so.

12                  So we must pave the way and truly be world  
13  leaders by making the transition away from all oil  
14  dependency. The transition will not be easy and  
15  happen overnight, but it must happen.

16                  The supposed jobs that the building of  
17  this pipeline would create are temporary, dirty and  
18  risky. We must not be so short-sighted; we must look  
19  at the big picture and think long term.

20                  So let's be responsible and create work  
21  that is healthy, productive, and beneficial for  
22  everyone, so we can not only provide for our children



1 but our children's children and future generations.

2 I also urge all of you to have a lovely  
3 afternoon stroll at Hardman Park in Manchester,  
4 Southeast Houston. You know, it's a great day in the  
5 park.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
7 I appreciate it.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Number 51, please. Thank  
10 you.

11 MR. SULLIVAN: Good evening. My name is  
12 John Sullivan. I'm from Galveston, Texas.

13 I'm here because you're not having a  
14 meeting closer to me, I don't think. So I came along  
15 to -- and I have a lot of friends here in Port  
16 Arthur. I worked a lot with the community on the  
17 west side over the years.

18 And I just want to say, just so I --  
19 people don't think, because I have an opposite point  
20 of view, I'm not like you. I was in the Navy. I  
21 worked for the United Natural Gas Company laying  
22 pipeline when I was younger, much younger.

23

1                   And I grew up in Oil City, Pennsylvania,  
2    which was the very heart of this industry. That's  
3    where the Drake well, ten miles down the road, was  
4    drilled. That's where Pennzoil and Quaker State  
5    became, you know, they were the preeminent refining  
6    companies in the United States for a long time. Then  
7    they were absorbed by Texas companies, and our town  
8    withered and died.

9                   And I know what it's like when you depend  
10   on something like that for your livelihood. But I'd  
11   like everybody to step back and just take a bigger  
12   look at it. This whole thing is not just a pipeline;  
13   it's an extraction process, it's building the  
14   pipeline, and then it's refining what comes through  
15   the pipeline.

16                  And now the pipeline itself, actually I  
17   don't have too many objections to the line. It's  
18   what's in it. I mean the extraction process is very  
19   destructive of the environment.

20                  And, please, look into that. See what's  
21   happening in Canada. See what the place looks like  
22   with the boreal forest, which is a carbon sink, which

1     might be very important in the future of our planet's  
2     climate.  It's going away.

3             And the people that live in that area,  
4     mostly natives, they're not doing very well.  They  
5     have a lot of health problems.  And then look at the  
6     other end of it, the refining process.

7             Okay.  We've already got some air quality  
8     issues already here in Texas.  They're better than  
9     they used to be.  But we still have issues.

10            But looking at this dirty crude, which has  
11     a high sulfur content, you're going to get more  
12     nitrogen oxides, more sulfur dioxide and hydrogen  
13     sulfide released in the process.

14            And everybody's going to have a legally  
15     permitted amount that they can release.  And they're  
16     not breaking the law; that's the way the law works.  
17     But it's not good for people.

18            What the EIS needs is an HIA, a health  
19     impact assessment that's really, really precise.

20            (Applause.)

21            MR. SULLIVAN:  Because we can't continue  
22     to externalize these kinds of things and say, 'That's  
23

1 not the issue.' Well, the issue is everything that's  
2 part of the issue, and health is part of it.

3 And if you don't do that assessment you  
4 don't know what the impacts you have to look forward  
5 to are; plus who's accountable for it. Who's  
6 accountable for all these health problems that may or  
7 may not arise?

8 People can't walk away from it if they are  
9 the responsible industry. But that's generally been  
10 the case. That's an externalized kind of thing.

11 And I just want everybody to think about  
12 that. Not that I'm against jobs; please don't think  
13 that.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
16 I appreciate it.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Number 52. Thank you.

19 MS. MERZ: Hello. My name is Evelyn Merz,  
20 E-v-e-l-y-n M as in Mary-e-r-z as in zebra.

21 I'm the conservation chair of the Lone  
22 Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, and also the Houston

23

1 Regional Group. I live in Houston.

2 The Keystone XL Pipeline is not in the  
3 long-term national interests of the United States.  
4 Building the Keystone XL is akin to a corporation  
5 chasing short-term profits to prop up the stock price  
6 for the next quarter.

7 Fossil fuels are going to be a part of our  
8 energy future for the foreseeable future. However,  
9 that future should plan on an increasing reliance on  
10 non-fossil fuels, not cementing the status quo, which  
11 is our dependence on fossil fuels. And tar sands are  
12 not conventional crude. It is higher in heavy metals  
13 and sulfur. The emissions are a greater problem than  
14 with refining conventional crude.

15 The Final EIS glosses over the emissions  
16 problem, leaving it to the Texas Commission on  
17 Environmental Quality -- the TCEQ -- to provide  
18 oversight. Unfortunately, living in Houston, I can  
19 assure you that the TCEQ's oversight consists of  
20 looking the other way.

21 Whether or not the pipeline is built, the  
22 U.S. will not be energy-independent with respect to  
23

1 fossil fuels. We should emphasize diversity of  
2 energy sources and having the discipline to conserve  
3 energy.

4 The Final EIS overstates the jobs and  
5 understates the risk. It bases spill probabilities  
6 upon a ten-year timeline when it is obvious that the  
7 pipeline would not be shut down in ten years. It is  
8 well known that the probability of spills increases  
9 with age.

10 The Keystone XL Pipeline is not the New  
11 Deal. The pipeline is not the savior of jobs, of  
12 schools, roads, retail businesses and families. Ask  
13 the communities along the Keystone Pipeline, which  
14 has already been built. How is the economic boom  
15 doing along that pipeline route now?

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. MERZ: Thank you.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
19 I appreciate it.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Number 53, please. Thank  
22 you.

23

1                   MS. RAE: Hi. Thank you for this  
2     opportunity, and for coming out here. It's Michelle  
3     -- with two L's -- Rae, R-a-e. I'm from Galveston,  
4     Texas.

5                   And I had a lot written down. But since  
6     I've been listening and talking to people outside,  
7     I've decided not to do that. Everybody's doing  
8     really well. I've come to protest the building of  
9     the pipeline. And this is going to be disorganized  
10    because it's coming from my heart and not from a  
11    piece of paper.

12                  You guys outside, I tried to generate  
13    conversation and I was told by several -- and I'm  
14    really glad to see you're sitting listening to us  
15    because I was told that 'we don't want to hear what  
16    you have to say; we don't care what you have to say;  
17    and here's the line: You have your opinion and we  
18    have ours.' And that's where it goes.

19                  But I think unless we listen to each other  
20    we'll never come to anything here.

21                  This reminds me a lot of -- I spent a lot  
22    of time and a lot of years living in Montana, and

23

1     there's a lot of logging there. And it was all about  
2     jobs: jobs, jobs, jobs. We need to feed our  
3     families; we need jobs. Yes, we all need jobs. But  
4     if you saw the clear-cut that went on to feed  
5     families it would break your heart.

6             You can't go through Montana, Wyoming,  
7     Idaho, Oregon; the mountains are just -- they're  
8     bald. And the environmental impact on the micro-  
9     environments in those areas is devastating. We're  
10    losing species. We're losing the whooping crane,  
11    which is being impacted in Canada.

12            And I know this is about the U.S., so you  
13    say, but I consider myself a citizen of the world,  
14    not just of the U.S. I live here; I was born here.

15            (Applause.)

16            MS. RAE: But we're all citizens of the  
17    world

18            (Applause.)

19            MS. RAE: As a species, we manipulate the  
20    environment in ways that no other species manipulates  
21    the environment, the tar sands being a good example  
22    of that. And in that respect we should consider

23



1       ourselves stewards of the environment. But I don't  
2       think we've doing a very good job.

3               We've heard a lot about health impacts and  
4       what's going to happen to the environment. And I'm  
5       getting a thank-you sign and I don't want to go over  
6       my time. But I wish that we could all just listen to  
7       each other; have a debate, move forward into a  
8       cleaner future.

9               And thank you.

10              You can't do this in two minutes.

11              MS. COLEMAN: Of course.

12              (Applause.)

13              MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much.

14              Again, we're sorry for the abbreviated  
15       time, but we want to get as many speakers as  
16       possible.

17              So if I can ask number 54 to come up,  
18       please.

19              MR. GARTNER: Good evening. My name is  
20       Robert Gartner, G-a-r-t-n-e-r. I live in Houston.

21              Houston is involved with this and will be  
22       impacted by this as well. I stand here to tell you

23

1     that I'm opposed to the pipeline. And my reasoning  
2     goes along these lines.

3                 I happen to be a biologist. And I'm also  
4     a retired -- I retired from a career as a public  
5     servant with the Houston Health Department.

6                 I guess I've considered that all my life  
7     I've hardly met a person that felt a sense of caring  
8     about this planet more than myself. Along about the  
9     time in 1986 I was introduced to a publication that  
10    also greatly impacted my life.

11                And I think in that light I want to say  
12    that all of us here tonight seem to be here for at  
13    least a couple of reasons. And one, it seems to  
14    just, to use a couple of words, that we're here  
15    because we're in a crisis, whether it's a crisis of  
16    jobs or whether it's a crisis of air or health, or  
17    the plants and animals.

18                I mean even this community center right  
19    here, there's not a single native plant outside these  
20    doors. There's Chinese elms. There's Indian crape  
21    myrtles. And there's plants from other countries.  
22    So we've altered this environment to the degree that  
23

1 I can't find a place to pick dewberries any more like  
2 I did when I was a kid.

3 Now what does that say about us? And I  
4 want to go back to that book, which was a book --  
5 it's called, When Society Becomes an Addict. It was  
6 written by a woman named Anne Wilson Schaef. The  
7 publisher is Harper and Rowe. It was written in  
8 1986, when my first child was born.

9 That book suggests that society behaves as  
10 an addict. And I think that's what we need to take  
11 into consideration. Human over-population is a  
12 factor, and that's something that I don't think  
13 you're going to hear from a politician, but we need  
14 to start thinking about that.

15 And we need to take this pipeline into  
16 consideration for the impact it's having on the  
17 planet.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. I  
20 appreciate it.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Number 55, please. Thank

23

1     you.

2                   MR. MARTINEZ:  My name is John Martinez.  
3     I'm a Vietnam veteran era Air Force, and also a  
4     postal -- well, a federal employee, postal employee,  
5     retired; and also the commander, the vice commander  
6     for the American GI Forum.

7                   And I know that most of us have been  
8     thinking about quality air, water, jobs.  But you've  
9     got to admit, you've got to have both of them.  And  
10    somehow we can get together and have both of them  
11    there because the other foreign countries don't  
12    really care.

13                  Our energy is a vital part of our  
14    country's defense.  Without it we could be speaking  
15    German, Russian, Korean, or maybe even Taliban.  We  
16    need the defense.  We've got to have that oil for us  
17    to exist on it.  Even though we also want clean  
18    water; we want clean air.

19                  But the whole part behind it is we need to  
20    learn how to work together and still be able to  
21    defend America because America defends many other  
22    countries around.  But there's, like you've been

23

1     hearing, there's many other countries don't like us.

2     Now that's true. But we don't want them to overtake

3     us, do we? No, not at all.

4                 We need to have that. We need to have the

5     oil because it's vital to us. It's vital to the

6     plastic; it's vital to the cars; it's vital to our

7     energy.

8                 So we are in support for the Keystone

9     Pipeline.

10                Thank you.

11                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

12                (Cheers and applause.)

13                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.

14                Yes, please. State your name and

15     affiliation. Thank you.

16                MS. RUSSELL: Scarlett Russell, S-c-a-r-l-

17     e-t-t R-u-s-s-e-l-l.

18                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

19                MS. RUSSELL: That's S as in Sam; not

20     Frank. I have a lisp.

21                Okay. All right. Okay.

22                I'm here on behalf of the hundreds of

23

1 people who I've talked to that couldn't make it here  
2 today. I'm a community organizer by passion and  
3 profession. So me and a close group of friends of  
4 mine have knocked on doors in the community of  
5 Manchester to educate people about what's happening.  
6 A lot of them came to the door and said, 'Yeah, it's  
7 going to bring jobs.'

8 We all need jobs, you know; totally  
9 respect that. And when I told them how much more  
10 toxic this stuff actually is they were devastated and  
11 they were very alarmed. I have a stack of 80 hand-  
12 written personal comments that I'm going to turn in  
13 before I leave of people that couldn't make it here  
14 today. Okay?

15 I like that you picked the color orange.  
16 I did, too. It's the color of revolution, which is  
17 what we need. We need an energy revolution, right?

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. RUSSELL: I was going to read some of  
20 them, but I don't have time. I'm just going to talk  
21 about jobs.

22 Yeah, we're facing one of the largest  
23

1 unemployment rates in our country that we've seen in  
2 decades. Yes, that's a fact, for sure. But let's  
3 read some of the facts.

4 And I don't know why you would let them  
5 continue to harp the number that's not true. 20,000  
6 jobs is not true; according to your own report it's  
7 not true. Okay? So I'm only going to focus on  
8 Texas.

9 Texas, local jobs, according to the State  
10 Department, 156 to 379. This is from the Department  
11 of State's own report. It's been written here that  
12 the Perryman Group study over-estimates job creation  
13 potential by approximately 13 times compared to the  
14 DOS analysis.

15 So I would also believe everything I heard  
16 if I only heard it from one source. But I don't. I  
17 dig and I read many, many pieces of information and I  
18 put it all together because it's always somewhere  
19 right in the middle. You can't believe everything  
20 you hear, you know.

21 So thanks for the time.

22 MS. COLEMAN: We appreciate your comments.

23

1     Thank you very much.

2                     (Applause.)

3                     MS. COLEMAN:   Number 57, please.   Thank  
4     you.

5                     MR. JAUREGUI:   Hello.   My name is Refugio  
6     Jauregui, R-e-f-u-g-i-o -- like the small town going  
7     in south Texas they now pronounce Refugio -- last  
8     name Jauregui, J-a-u-r-e-g-u-i, which has been here  
9     in Texas since 1651 to 1659.

10                    There was a governor of Texas by that  
11     name.   So you're looking at an American, a Tejano, a  
12     Texan.

13                    I've been here a long time.   I grew up in  
14     Freeport, Texas.   Dow Chemical Company, a lot of air  
15     in the air.   I saw a lot of people die from cancer,  
16     including my parents.   But then I saw a lot of people  
17     die in Vietnam, coming back from Vietnam, never made  
18     it back.

19                    We have all these soldiers overseas now  
20     taking care of us so we can get this precious oil  
21     that we need.   Now we have our neighbors in the north  
22     offering us a chance for this oil so we can get our  
23



1 troops back over here where we need them.

2 My God, I mean, we're all going to go some  
3 time. I know we've all lost loved ones to cancer and  
4 stuff. I lost my granddaughter three years ago on  
5 the 14th of this month in an auto accident. She  
6 didn't die of cancer.

7 I've known a lot of people die from  
8 cancer. And we're all, like I say, we're all going  
9 to go some time. But, hey, let's get our troops back  
10 over here. Get this pipeline in here.

11 There's not a soul in this building that  
12 one way or another does not need oil.

13 Do I hear an 'amen' on that?

14 (Chorus of 'amen.')

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

16 (Cheers and applause.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

18 Now we have number 58.

19 MS. ALVAREZ: Hi. Yes.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Hi.

21 MS. ALVAREZ: My name is Christina

22 Alvarez, A-l-v-a-r-e-z. I am from McAllen, Texas,

23

1     which is about a ten-hour drive, approximately ten  
2     minutes from Mexico. Me and my friends came here on  
3     our own time and our own budget, so I'd like to point  
4     that out as well.

5                 It's been known that great writers are  
6     said to prophesize what is to come. And that is a  
7     claim among the scientific community is science  
8     fiction is turning into science fact. And so I'd  
9     like to read a little bit of an excerpt from the poet  
10    Charles Bukowski. The poem is entitled Dinosauria,  
11    We:

12                         There will be open and  
13                         unpunished murder in the  
14                         streets  
15                         Land will be useless  
16                         Food will become a  
17                         diminishing return  
18                         Nuclear power will be taken  
19                         over by the many  
20                         Explosions will continually  
21                         shake the earth  
22                         Radiated robot men will  
23

1 stalk each other  
2 The rich and the chosen  
3 will watch from space  
4 platforms  
5 Dante's Inferno will be  
6 made to look like a  
7 children's playground  
8 The sun will not be seen  
9 and it will always be night  
10 Trees will die  
11 All vegetation will die  
12 Radiated men will eat the  
13 flesh of radiated men  
14 The sea will be poisoned  
15 The lakes and rivers will  
16 vanish  
17 Rain will become the new  
18 gold  
19 The rotting bodies of men  
20 and animals will stink in  
21 the dark wind  
22 [And] The last few  
23

1 survivors will be overtaken  
2 by new and hideous  
3 diseases.

4 I'm against the pipeline and I do not want  
5 this prognosis to come true. So that's my statement.

6 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.  
7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Please.

10 MS. ALEMAN: My name is Jeanie Aleman, J-  
11 e-a-n-i-e A-l-e-m-a-n. I'm from Houston. I'm with  
12 the American GI Forum of Texas and the Region Chapter  
13 in Houston, representing the women of the State of  
14 Texas.

15 I'm here today to speak in favor of the  
16 Keystone XL Pipeline. This project is without a  
17 doubt very important to all veterans and all American  
18 citizens. It will be definitely a help to the  
19 Hispanic population.

20 Constructing Keystone XL would provide  
21 jobs and contracting opportunities for workers,  
22 business, and families. Less of our American troops

23

1 will need to be deployed overseas to defend foreign  
2 oil supply.

3 The Keystone will pay taxes to our  
4 counties and school districts of all kinds when local  
5 governments are short of tax revenue.

6 Just think: When our young veterans come  
7 back to the United States they would be able to get  
8 jobs. And hopefully by that time all the problems  
9 have been solved that are holding the project or the  
10 pipeline, because I know the EPA has approved the  
11 project.

12 I urge that the Obama administration and  
13 the State Department decide to approve this project.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
16 I appreciate it.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Number 60. Thank you.

19 MR. NEK: Hi. I'd like to thank everyone  
20 who's still here for still being here.

21 My name is Murtaza Nek, first name M-u-r-  
22 t-a-z-a, last name N-e-k.

23

1                   And as far as the Keystone Pipeline goes,  
2    I feel that there's an abundance of reasons against  
3    building and using it, whereas the reasons in favor  
4    of it are few, unconvincing, and desperate. Those  
5    few who are poised to make billions from tar sands  
6    oil have lots to spend on a public relations campaign  
7    to misconstrue and exaggerate its benefits, which is  
8    why what would be an otherwise obvious decision  
9    against building the pipeline seems not so obvious at  
10   the present.

11                  Among the most obvious reasons why the  
12   people should not be built is the expected  
13   environmental destruction that would result. The  
14   pipeline promises to pass through or near  
15   agricultural land or water sources, such as streams,  
16   lakes, and the huge Ogallala aquifer which goes  
17   through much of America's heartland.

18                  These waterways would all be under serious  
19   threat if the pipeline was built owing to the  
20   possibility of leaks, which we expect to be frequent  
21   because TransCanada has a track record of building  
22   pipelines that were way leakier than they should have

1     been. And here I'm referring to the Keystone 1,  
2     which leaked 12 times in a month despite them saying  
3     that it would leak only once every seven to eleven  
4     years.

5                 Even if TransCanada improves greatly with  
6     the Keystone XL Pipeline, leaks are more or less  
7     guaranteed, likely sooner than later. And what would  
8     a leak mean for Texas in particular? Well, what  
9     should be expect when we combine drought-induced  
10    summer fires, which we're learning to expect more  
11    frequently as the years go by, with a pipeline that  
12    leaks flammable crude oil?

13                Are we really going to sign our  
14    environmental death sentences so a few people, wholly  
15    unconnected to us, could get rich?

16                The expected environmental destruction is  
17    way more comprehensive than what I've suggested so  
18    far. But allow me to briefly discuss arguments in  
19    favor of the pipeline.

20                One is that the pipeline would produce  
21    jobs. That is obviously true. But in and of itself  
22    it carries little weight. Any kind of energy-

23

1     producing undertaking would produce jobs. Building  
2     the pipeline would likely require a number of low-  
3     wage jobs that last for only a few years.

4             And they're only worth it if they -- And  
5     are they worth it if they lead to expected leaks and  
6     spills that destroy the communities around them?  
7     Spills have an unmistakably devastating impact on  
8     communities and their economic livelihoods. So the  
9     job argument really carries little weight.

10            Instead of supporting low-wage short-term  
11     jobs that threaten the livelihoods of communities, we  
12     should be investing in long-term jobs that require  
13     and inspire creativity, which is only one good reason  
14     that the United States should get moving on its  
15     transition to a renewable energy economy.

16            This would not only be environmentally  
17     safer and more economically sound and secure, it  
18     would bring about a cycle in which jobs in renewable  
19     energy would nurture American intellect and  
20     creativity, which would only lead to more jobs in a  
21     self-reinforcing cycle, leading to an environmental  
22     and economic renaissance in the U.S., if you will.

23



1 MS. COLEMAN: Sir, I think we're beginning  
2 to come to the end of the time.

3 MR. NEK: I'm sorry. Thank you for  
4 letting me speak.

5 MS. COLEMAN: All right. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: And please remember --  
9 Please remember, if there are any comments that you  
10 don't have time to make, you can submit them as well  
11 online, in writing, fax, et cetera. Thank you.

12 Sir, please.

13 MR. DURKAY: John Durkay, D-u-r-k-a-y.

14 I'm the general counsel of Industry of  
15 Southeast Texas. That's the 50 large facilities in  
16 the area, and we're refineries, chemical plants, air  
17 plants, steel mills, pipeline terminals, crude  
18 storage companies, electric generation. We do, of  
19 course, support the construction of the pipeline.

20 Port Arthur is a traditional terminal for  
21 most such lines. And this is just one more. It has  
22 a 110 year history and really knows how to handle

23

1     this issue.

2                   Having said that, industry is a little  
3     puzzled by two issues. The first issue is that  
4     there's something exceptional about this crude. And  
5     I can assure everybody here, we have studied this  
6     very hard, not from the point of view of  
7     environmental impact or any of that, but from the  
8     point of view of having to actually handle it and  
9     refine it. And there doesn't seem to be anything in  
10    this crude that's a special problem.

11                  We deal with very strange crudes all day  
12    long now. That's very common anymore. And I can  
13    tell West Port Arthur, there's nothing special about  
14    this crude.

15                  The second thing we're puzzled about in  
16    industry is the whole question of community  
17    pollution.

18                  First, we are an air quality attainment  
19    area. Industry is heavily committed to good air  
20    quality. We don't want Port Arthur to be an  
21    environmental justice city; we want it to be the  
22    model environmental justice city. We have been

23

1 committed to that. We've been actively involved in  
2 that.

3 I get two or three calls from Corpus  
4 Christi saying the EPA is telling them they've got to  
5 do things the way we do them in Port Arthur. So  
6 we're going to try and set the standard there.

7 The final little quick comment, if I can  
8 make it, in that connection: Half of my members  
9 manufacture chemicals. That's the downstream from  
10 the refining process. The chemical industry is the  
11 single largest positive component in balance of  
12 trades in the United States. We are the single  
13 largest contributor to positive balance of trade in  
14 the United States.

15 That's important from the national  
16 interest point of view.

17 And we will be happy to take this crude  
18 and make chemicals to sell overseas.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you  
22 for your comments.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Number 62, please.

3 MS. HO-SHING: Hi. My name is Jacqueline  
4 Ho-Shing. Jacqueline, J-a-c-q-u-e-l-i-n-e, Ho-Shing,  
5 H-o hyphen S-h-i-n-g.

6 I came from McAllen, Texas, also with a  
7 group, which is far away, like she said, like  
8 Christina said. Okay.

9 Okay. Get to the point.

10 I had a big -- well, semi-decent speech to  
11 say why I'm against the pipeline. But everyone who  
12 also is against the pipeline basically said what I  
13 was going to say.

14 But I was wondering how many people in  
15 this room actually live in the communities that are  
16 by the pipeline and understand why we are against the  
17 pipeline because why we are against the pipeline is  
18 for the future of every single person in this room's  
19 children and their grandchildren. And for the  
20 ability for everyone to have clean air and clean  
21 water and to not worry when they get out of the house  
22 that their kid is going to end up getting asthma just  
23

1     because they want to play outside with their friends.

2                     And that's my basic point.  Thanks.

3                     MS. COLEMAN:  I appreciate that.  Thank  
4     you very much.

5                     (Applause.)

6                     MS. COLEMAN:  Number 63, please.  Thank  
7     you.

8                     MS. STONECIPHER:  My name is Carolyn  
9     Stonecipher and I am speaking as a resident of  
10    Jefferson County.  That's S-t-o-n-e-c-i-p-h-e-r.

11                    I'm going to skip over a lot of the points  
12    I intended to make for lack of time.  But one thing I  
13    did want to point out is that most Texans know what  
14    oil is.  It's a black hydrocarbon liquid that's  
15    pumped out of the ground.  The material that's coming  
16    through the Keystone XL Pipeline, should it be built,  
17    is very different.  It's diluted bitumen that is  
18    actually strip mined in Canada.  It's not pumped out  
19    of the ground.  Half of it's strip-mined; half of it  
20    is brought to the surface with steam injection.  So  
21    we have a hydrocarbon that's very heavy and has to be  
22    diluted by some other hydrocarbon in order to give it  
23

1 a viscosity that would allow it to go through a  
2 pipeline. This gives it a very unusual hydrocarbon  
3 distribution.

4 These pipelines that would be bringing the  
5 stuff down here to us is likely to have some spills.  
6 Keystone estimated they would have about 0.22 spills  
7 per year. And if you look at their record on the  
8 Keystone 1, they've had 14 -- 30 if you count Canada  
9 -- since it started its operation in June of 2010.

10 It crosses the northern high plains  
11 aquifer, and there are more than 200 public water  
12 supply wells within one mile of the proposed  
13 centerline.

14 The pipeline brings -- or provides deep-  
15 water ports. And this would allow for the export of  
16 processed or unprocessed diluted bitumen to other  
17 markets.

18 Health risks have not been adequately  
19 addressed. This bitumen material is abrasive,  
20 corrosive, and questions have not yet been adequately  
21 answered about the safety of it in the pipeline. All  
22 of the so-called 57 things that have been addressed  
23

1     are nothing special. That's what they use for all of  
2     them.

3             Okay. I think it's time to realize that  
4     our dependence on fossil fuels as our primary source  
5     of energy is no longer sustainable. To have to gouge  
6     bitumen out of the forest reminds me of prehistoric  
7     people in the peat bogs digging for fuel. Surely we  
8     are, all these thousands of years later, better  
9     equipped to move on to a renewable, less polluting  
10    energy source.

11            MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, I think --

12            MS. STONECIPHER: When I worked for Mobile  
13    R&D years ago my boss would often wonder aloud --

14            MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am --

15            MS. STONECIPHER: -- why nobody seemed to  
16    understand that oil is simply too valuable to burn.  
17    It's a resource that we should preserve --

18            MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, would you please --

19            MS. STONECIPHER: -- for future  
20    generations --

21            MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, please.

22            MS. STONECIPHER: -- just as we need to

23

1     leave them clean air --

2                   MS. COLEMAN:   Ma'am --

3                   MS. STONECIPHER:  -- and water.

4                   MS. COLEMAN:   I'm sorry.  But we really  
5     want to get everyone.

6                   MS. STONECIPHER:  I'm sorry, but I stood  
7     in line from three o'clock and I --

8                   MS. COLEMAN:   I know.  Please feel free --

9

10                  MS. STONECIPHER:  Okay.

11                  MS. COLEMAN:   -- to submit your comments.

12     Thank you.  Thank you.

13                  (Applause.)

14                  MS. COLEMAN:   Number 63.  Thank you.

15                  MS. SCOGGIN:   I'm 64.

16                  MS. COLEMAN:   64.  Very good to see you.

17     Good.

18                  MS. SCOGGIN:   My name is Ann Scoggin, S-c-  
19     o-g-g-i-n.  I'm with Coldwell Banker Southern Homes  
20     Real Estate.  I'm here representing the local  
21     realtors in our area.  And I would like to send the  
22     message that we are for the Keystone Pipeline.

23



1 (Applause.)

2 MS. SCOGGIN: I am an owner at Coldwell  
3 Banker Southern Homes. I do business in Jefferson,  
4 Hardin, and Harris County.

5 And I certainly can't speak about the  
6 quality of oil and what this oil is like, none of  
7 that. But I can speak about the housing industry.  
8 And I would say that, you know, our housing industry  
9 nationwide is in trouble and obviously you know why.  
10 It doesn't matter how low the interest rate is; what  
11 matters is that people have jobs. If they don't have  
12 a job --

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. SCOGGIN: -- or if they're in fear of  
15 losing their job, they will not buy a home. And  
16 certainly the housing industry is a pillar of our  
17 economy nationally.

18 And I will say locally that we here  
19 locally got through that mortgage crisis that  
20 affected the nation. We did just fine because we  
21 didn't have those unscrupulous lenders here.

22 But I'll tell you what did hit our area

23

1 really hard was the moratorium on drilling that our  
2 President put upon our Gulf area here. And that --

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. SCOGGIN: I'll respect your time.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

6 MS. SCOGGIN: That did affect us  
7 tremendously.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Number 65. Thank you.

12 MR. CROSS: Thank you for being here  
13 tonight. And thanks, everyone, for staying around  
14 for this long meeting.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Your name, sir, please?

16 MR. CROSS: My name is Nathan, N-a-t-h-a-  
17 n, Cross, C-r-o-s-s.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. CROSS: I am here -- I am a local  
20 businessman, a CPA, for over 40 years of practice.  
21 We have two offices employing over 30 people.

22 But I'm here tonight representing the

23

1 Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, of which I  
2 currently serve as the chairman of the board. I am  
3 going to read a resolution that has been prepared and  
4 we will be submitting that to the State Department.

5 Resolution supporting a strong boost to  
6 the U.S. economy through the permitting of the  
7 Keystone XL Pipeline.

8 Whereas, the Keystone XL Pipeline project,  
9 commonly referred to as the TransCanada Pipeline,  
10 will connect Hardesty, Alberta, Canada, with  
11 facilities in the United States with approximately  
12 2000 miles of new pipeline; and

13 Whereas, this TransCanada Pipeline will  
14 create 13,000 American construction and manufacturing  
15 jobs and \$20 billion in construction costs for a  
16 lagging economy and reduce our dependence upon  
17 foreign oil sources; and

18 Whereas, the TransCanada Pipeline is  
19 expected to create more than 118,000 spin-off jobs  
20 during the two years of construction, and its  
21 construction will generate 600 million in new state  
22 and local tax revenues with an additional 5.2 billion

1 in property taxes; and

2           Whereas, the TransCanada Pipeline will  
3 provide efficiency gains by linking oil producers to  
4 allow gains between 35.5 and 146 million annually and  
5 lower transport costs for a savings to Gulf Coast  
6 refineries of 473 million annually and allowing the  
7 shipping of 400,000 barrels per day.

8           There are three more 'whereases.' I will  
9 respect your time and not read them all.

10           Therefore, be it resolved, the Greater  
11 Beaumont Chamber of Commerce urges the United States  
12 State Department to approve the Keystone XL  
13 TransCanada Pipeline Project.

14           MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

15           (Applause.)

16           MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir. Please,  
17 your name and --

18           MR. PIERCE: Good evening. My name is  
19 Vernon Pierce. That's V-e-r-n-o-n, Pierce, P-i-e-r-  
20 c-e.

21           I think it's great that we live in a  
22 country that we can come together and express  
23

1       opposing views. I appreciate the State Department  
2       for hosting this meeting today.

3                       (Applause.)

4                       MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you.  
5       Thank you.

6                       (Applause.)

7                       MR. PIERCE: You know, I'm number 66.  
8       With respect for 67 and on up, my comments will be  
9       brief.

10                      I want you to know that I'm here to  
11       support the Keystone Pipeline. I believe it is going  
12       to improve our national security. Not only is it  
13       going to increase jobs, it will add job security, it  
14       improves our economic development by increasing the  
15       potential for more jobs in this area and more  
16       businesses to come here.

17                      The pipeline will stabilize gas prices  
18       nationwide. It has already passed an environmental  
19       study; it is not unfriendly to the environment. It  
20       is good for the nation; it is good for the state of  
21       Texas; it is good for southeast Texas.

22                      The oil is going somewhere. Let the oil  
23

1     come here, because I know the professionals that work  
2     in this area and their refineries. And I know  
3     they'll handle it correctly and very professionally.

4             We ask that Secretary Clinton, that you  
5     approve -- you and the State Department approve this  
6     pipeline.

7             Thank you so much.

8             MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

9             (Applause.)

10            MS. COLEMAN: 67, please. Thank you.

11            MR. ISAACS: Good. Thank you.

12            I've got some written comments prepared.

13     For the sake of time, I'm going to read them.

14            I'm Dennis Isaacs, I-s-a-a-c-s. I'm an  
15     environmental consultant with 43 years' experience in  
16     the safety, health, environmental business, and also  
17     sit on the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Governmental  
18     Affairs Board.

19            From an economic development perspective  
20     there are many reasons why this project is in our  
21     county's national interest and should be granted the  
22     Presidential Permit as required to begin

23

1 construction. Keystone XL will greatly benefit all  
2 of the constituencies along the pipeline corridor  
3 economically as well as enhance energy security in  
4 the United States.

5           The Keystone XL project has and will  
6 continue to be constructed and operated in a safe  
7 manner. That has already been demonstrated through  
8 the successful initial phases of the pipeline  
9 construction, having involved more than 36,000 miles  
10 of pipeline in North America with existing  
11 relationships with more than 40,000 landowners.

12           Keystone's progress has occurred with  
13 regulatory controls that are par for the course as  
14 any other company seeking to expand the nation's 2.3  
15 million miles of existing regulated pipelines that  
16 carry the lion's share of our total energy need.

17           State and federal regulatory programs have  
18 resulted in unprecedented environmental impacts. The  
19 air, water and lands of the United States, and  
20 especially right here in southeast Texas, are cleaner  
21 now than at any other time in our regulated history.

22           Those accomplishments are not  
23

1       coincidental, but are the byproduct of efforts to  
2       promote new technologies for the development of  
3       sustainable energy sources.

4               As you heard John Durkay say, we are in  
5       attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality  
6       Standards.

7               There have been many outspoken opponents  
8       tonight of this project and its operating elements,  
9       ranging from incompatibility with current technology  
10      applications to greater contributions of greenhouse  
11      gas generation to global warming. Alternatively,  
12      they would suggest that our nation's sustainable  
13      energy needs lie in renewable energy resources versus  
14      conventional crude oil processing. One cannot  
15      dispute the value of exploring the potential for new  
16      renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and  
17      geothermal. However --

18              MS. COLEMAN:   Sir, we're beginning to run  
19      out of time.

20              MR. ISAACS:    Okay.

21              MS. COLEMAN:   If you wouldn't mind  
22      submitting those --

23



1 MR. ISAACS: Okay.

2 MS. COLEMAN: -- in writing, because it's  
3 -- you know, we want to hear it all. But we want to  
4 get through a number of people in line.

5 MR. ISAACS: Okay.

6 One final comment: On both the economic  
7 development of our environmental scorecard, we  
8 consider the Keystone project a win-win for  
9 participation along the construction corridor.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much for your  
12 understanding.

13 Thank you to all of you. I appreciate it.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. COLEMAN: Please.

16 MR. TURNER: Hi. My name is Robert  
17 Turner, T-u-r-n-e-r.

18 I'm a local businessman. I'm an  
19 automobile dealer, as a matter of fact. I sell  
20 Chevrolets and Subarus. And I want to tell you that  
21 I am for this pipeline because I think this country  
22 needs something that they can get behind and say,

23

1     'The government's doing the right thing; they're  
2     moving forward.'

3                     (Applause.)

4             MR. TURNER:   We need hope in this country.

5                     (Applause.)

6             MR. TURNER:   And by approving this  
7     pipeline you will send signals to folk who don't have  
8     a job that there's a chance that they might get a  
9     job.

10                    (Applause.)

11            MR. TURNER:   It's not about how many jobs  
12    are permanent.   It's the fact that I know that I can  
13    get a job; I can go do something.   It is a proven  
14    fact that every time a pipeline or something in the  
15    oil industry goes good for workers, they buy more  
16    trucks.   They buy more cars.

17                    (Applause.)

18            MR. TURNER:   That means that they are  
19    spending money, which is what this economy is about.

20                    This is a bartering economy.   And if we  
21    can get to where we can get people feeling good about  
22    spending money -- whether it's houses, whether it's

23

1 food, whether it's just going and taking their kids  
2 to a movie -- that means that folk who run those  
3 businesses -- and as I speak I'm speaking for the  
4 business community.

5 We want his two dollars. We want his 500.  
6 We want to sell everything that people use. And  
7 people stop spending money when they're scared.

8 And the government's got people scared  
9 right now because it has taken 40 -- what? -- 40  
10 months and we still haven't -- we haven't done  
11 anything with this pipeline deal. 20 months is  
12 normally how long it takes to vet a project like  
13 this. And this project has been on hold way too  
14 long.

15 I want to yield time back because my  
16 friend took a little bit of time from this industry.  
17 But I want you to know the business community is  
18 squarely behind the approval of this for all the  
19 reasons stated earlier. And I didn't see any horses  
20 outside, so I don't know what these people drove up  
21 in --

22 (Applause.)

1 MR. TURNER: -- but I bet it burned fossil  
2 fuels.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. TURNER: I guarantee you it did.

5 (Cheers and applause.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

7 Okay. Thank you very much for your  
8 comments.

9 We'd like to move to number 69, please.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: The next speaker, please.  
12 Do we have another speaker, please?

13 MR. ALVARADO: I'll speak. I'm number 70.  
14 I'll speak.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Fine. Fine. That's great.

16 MR. ALVARADO: My name is Jaime, J-a-i-m-  
17 e, last name Alvarado, A-l-v-a-r-a-d-o. And I'm the  
18 chairman of the National Hispanic Professional  
19 Organization, NHPO.

20 We are supporting the construction of the  
21 pipeline, the Keystone Pipeline XL. We want to send  
22 a message to President Obama: We humbly urge

23

1 President Obama, Secretary Clinton, to pass this  
2 pipeline and pass it right now.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. ALVARADO: Three main reasons. Number  
5 one, jobs, jobs and jobs. You can't tell me that  
6 building a 2000 mile pipeline is only going to create  
7 153 jobs. That is impossible.

8 Number two, the creation of the pipeline  
9 is all coming from the private sector. It's not  
10 coming from Obama stimulus money at all. It's all  
11 private money and it's permanent. It's going to be  
12 permanent here for us.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. ALVARADO: Number three; it affects my  
15 community, Latino community. And I'm here  
16 representing all Americans. Everyone in here is  
17 going to have a chance to get a piece of the pie and  
18 to earn a decent living, to go to the movies, to buy  
19 a car from this gentleman over here.

20 He was over there.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. ALVARADO: And on a personal note,

23

1     because of time, on a personal note, I'd like to say  
2     that my daddy is in the oil and gas industry. My  
3     cousin has been a roughneck for 20 years. It does  
4     come home to my heart.

5                 I want to say that my cousin has finally  
6     taken that step, become an entrepreneur in the  
7     industry and has turned his first profit this year.

8                 (Applause.)

9                 MR. ALVARADO: So you can make money in  
10    this business long term and provide jobs for other  
11    people.

12                Thank you.

13                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
14    I appreciate it.

15                (Applause.)

16                MS. COLEMAN: Another speaker, please.

17                Come on up. We can stand at the -- Yes,  
18    stand behind the other -- Go ahead, please.

19                MR. DIAZ: My name is Jose Diaz, that's J-  
20    o-s-e D-i-a-z. I'm also with the National Hispanic  
21    Professional Organization.

22                And I'm not here to represent the

23

1 organization or a business or -- you know, I don't  
2 work in oil or any of that. I represent my  
3 community.

4 I live out there. I see people who want  
5 to work. And here's a project that will put plenty  
6 of people to work. And not just, you know, people in  
7 oil or in construction. This is bigger than that.  
8 Everything -- all those jobs will spawn more jobs,  
9 will spawn more spending.

10 I've lived in Houston's east end. I live  
11 in Pasadena. I see the refineries every day. I'm  
12 not even that far from the refineries. So I can  
13 understand when people talk about air pollution.

14 However, the -- however, the reality is,  
15 as much as we'd like to be on these green energy  
16 projects, which is great -- I hope they come to live;  
17 I hope they do well -- the reality is we can't spend  
18 time waiting on the possibilities. We need to deal  
19 with what is happening right now.

20 Right now we are dependent on oil. Right  
21 now we need oil.

22 (Applause.)

23

1                   MR. DIAZ: We can't sit around and wait  
2     for these other things to happen. We need to deal  
3     with the what-is, not with the what-ifs.

4                   Thank you.

5                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
6     comments.

7                   (Applause.)

8                   MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, thank you.

9                   MS. CARTER: Margaret Carter, Beaumont,  
10    Texas.

11                   The issue for us in southeast Texas has  
12    come down to jobs versus the environment. Granted,  
13    we do live in a hydrocarbon pollution center. So  
14    some would say what difference does it make that  
15    Jefferson County, Texas, has chosen to participate in  
16    a very dirty process. We need the jobs.

17                   The main problem with such dirty  
18    hydrocarbons are the toxic benzene, toluene and  
19    xylenes that will be released into the air and water.  
20    Once in our bodies, they disrupt our cells, causing  
21    an incredible variety of cancers, many of which are  
22    already on the rise in Jefferson County.

23



1           I understand the plight of the workers and  
2   unions. I support unions. And soon our country's  
3   workers will be crying for the right to unionize if  
4   the move to kill unions continues in this country.

5           The union members here probably know that  
6   the super-rich Koch brothers are behind union-busting  
7   tactics up north. I'd like to remind you -- I'd like  
8   to remind union members that there is already a call  
9   for a congressional investigation into the Koch  
10  brothers' involvement in the Keystone XL Pipeline.

11          When I look around online I always see  
12  that the workers think the environmentalists don't  
13  have anything to offer -- I'm sorry, don't have  
14  anything else to offer and are their enemies. I  
15  would like to quote a little from Naval Secretary Ray  
16  Mabus to show that this project and pipeline are the  
17  wrong direction for our country to go.

18          During the January 2011 Clean Energy  
19  Summit Secretary Ray Mabus began his review of  
20  converting the Department of the Navy from fossil  
21  fuels to energy fuel.

22          MS. COLEMAN: Ma'am, would you -- I'm

1       sorry --

2               MS. CARTER:   Yes.

3               MS. COLEMAN:   Could you put it in your --

4               MS. CARTER:   Can I just say one thing.

5               I would like to ask the State Department  
6       to send the Department of Energy down here and have  
7       realistic meetings with the workers and the unions  
8       and the small business people to find out what we can  
9       do because a lot of people are in the same boat as  
10      us.  They refine.  They refine hydrocarbons and the  
11      world is moving away from hydrocarbons.

12              We need to not leave the workers just out  
13      there with nothing -- you know, begging for dirty,  
14      dirty jobs.  We should ask the Department of Energy  
15      and our State Department -- this is national  
16      security.  It's a national security issue.

17              Thank you.

18              MS. COLEMAN:   Okay.  Thank you very much,  
19      ma'am.  Thank you.  Thank you for your comments.

20              (Applause.)

21              MS. COLEMAN:   Okay, sir, please.

22              MR. GUERRERO:   My name is David Guerrero.

23

1 And that's G-u-e-r-r-e-r-o. And I'm with the  
2 National Hispanic Professional Organization. And as  
3 a construction project manager -- well, first, I'm in  
4 support of this pipeline.

5 And as a construction manager, the jobs  
6 that they're saying that's going to be created --  
7 that these people are saying are going to create is  
8 unrealistic. In order to dig that amount of rock and  
9 dirty and to haul it off and to bring the pipe in and  
10 the food that these guys will be eating and the  
11 welders that they bring in, the electricians that  
12 come in and do the work, and then the cover, I mean  
13 the creation of jobs is going to be overwhelming in  
14 those areas.

15 You know, you just -- the fact that we are  
16 creating jobs is the most important part of this.  
17 You know, we need jobs. People who have jobs spend  
18 money. They go to restaurants. They're able to  
19 leave tips. Those people are then able to get paid  
20 from the restaurants and then go buy something at the  
21 store.

22 I mean it's a trickle effect that happens

1     when you create jobs. And we need jobs. That's the  
2     bottom line: We need jobs.

3             Thank you.

4             MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
5     Appreciate it.

6             (Applause.)

7             MS. MOSQUEDA: Veronica Mosqueda, M-o-s-q-  
8     u-e-d-a. And I'm going to sing -- No, not really.

9             (Laughter.)

10            MS. MOSQUEDA: I just want to say that I  
11     am in support of this -- Am I too loud?

12            I am in support of this pipeline. While  
13     I'm very honored to be in this room for people that  
14     are in support of it as well, when I first came and  
15     found out about this I was like, oh, what's the big  
16     deal; it doesn't impact me.

17            But a month ago I didn't have a job. And  
18     if somebody would have told me, oh, don't worry about  
19     it; just go get unemployment; you can do something  
20     else. But this job is right in front of you and it  
21     does impact everyone in here.

22            And like we heard earlier, I didn't see

23

1     any horses outside, you know, --

2                     (Applause.)

3                     MS. MOSQUEDA:  -- even though we're  
4     talking about that.

5                     But on behalf of NHPO I just want to say  
6     that again it's about jobs, friendly oil and the  
7     economic stimulus to over seven states.  And life is  
8     a job, but you have more of a life with a job.

9                     MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you very much.

10                    (Applause.)

11                    MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you, ma'am.  What's  
12     your name?

13                    MS. CORTES:  Good evening, everyone.  My  
14     name is Marie Cortes, C-o-r-t-e-s.

15                    As an educator, a mother, and a community  
16     leader, I'm always concerned about my children and  
17     our youth.  Tonight I stand here in support of the  
18     Keystone XL Pipeline because it is a project that we  
19     need.  It is a clever idea to stimulate our economy.

20                    I am confident that the project planners  
21     have done their homework and have carefully studied  
22     the consequences and the solutions.  In case they

23

1     haven't, I just would like to leave them a few things  
2     to think about.

3             Please think of the increase in cargo and  
4     heavy trucks that will be transporting materials. Be  
5     ready for the heavy road of reconstruction.

6             And number two, think of the huge water  
7     supply that will be needed to dilute the final  
8     products. Lots of water is going to be needed, and  
9     in Texas we have a drought. So I hope they thought  
10    about that.

11            Number three, please ensure that they do  
12    hire our people.

13            And number four, please examine the  
14    environmental issues and please, please make sure  
15    that our children will stay out of harm and they will  
16    be healthy and live a healthy life.

17            Let's do what is best for America. Don't  
18    let money or the politics get in the way, and make  
19    this final decision.

20            Thank you.

21            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

22            (Applause.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: We should be at about 75  
2 now.

3 MR. SZUCH: I'm 78.

4 MS. COLEMAN: 78.

5 MR. PEREZ: 77.

6 MS. COLEMAN: 77.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. PEREZ: My name is Javier Perez, J-a-  
9 v-i-e-r P-e-r-e-z.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. PEREZ: I come here representing the  
12 National Hispanic Professional Organization  
13 Leadership Institute. We're 180 leaders from the  
14 Houston area representing Houston's majority of  
15 color.

16 I am the son of John Perez, Jr., a Korean  
17 War veteran and Bronze Star winner. And to all the  
18 veterans within the sound of my voice, I want to  
19 thank you from a very appreciative American. Thank  
20 you for serving this country.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. PEREZ: You know, in the Gulf War we  
23

1     had a phrase that became very popular. It says, 'No  
2     blood for oil.' But, you know, I'm not naive. I  
3     realize that oil is the blood of our economy.

4             And, you know, as a father of three young  
5     men, my oldest son -- well, actually all three of  
6     them, their dream is to serve their country in the  
7     armed forces. My oldest son is in the process now of  
8     becoming a Marine. And that is exactly why I think  
9     that is so true: No blood for oil.

10            I mean why do I want to send him across  
11     foreign -- overseas to foreign lands to fight for  
12     something that could be just gotten just right across  
13     the border. No blood for oil; you're damn right no  
14     blood for oil.

15            (Applause.)

16            MR. PEREZ: That's why we need the  
17     Keystone XL Pipeline today, to protect America's  
18     tomorrow.

19            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

20            (Applause.)

21            MS. COLEMAN: Number 78. Thank you.

22            MR. SZUCH: Good evening. My name is Paul

23



1       Szuch, S-z-u-c-h. And I serve as president of Lamar  
2       Institute of Technology, a member of the Texas State  
3       University System.

4               Our college is a major educational and  
5       economic resource for southeast Texas and the nation.  
6       We are actively engaged with all the refineries in  
7       southeast Texas and provide our global partners with  
8       college graduates who possess the knowledge, skills,  
9       and understanding required for the safe, effective  
10      and efficient operation of the refineries.

11             We provide new employees, conduct new hire  
12      training, participate in incumbent worker training  
13      and develop new educational outcomes for the industry  
14      based upon local and global needs.

15             We provide the skilled work force required  
16      to build refineries and pipelines. In addition, we  
17      provide public service and safety graduates,  
18      including Homeland Security individuals to protect  
19      our nation and our ports here in southeast Texas.

20             I know you recognize there's a spillover  
21      cost associated with the choice government makes.  
22      However, there are spillover benefits as well.

23

1                   What does our energy infrastructure need  
2   to be to adequately and appropriately serve our needs  
3   now and in the future? The investment in our  
4   infrastructure is not just brick and mortar and steel  
5   and pipes. Our investment is very much in people.

6                   Our families, friends, and those within  
7   our national community depend upon us to be effective  
8   stewards of our valuable and limited resource.

9                   You remember learning that scarcity is the  
10   greatest economic problem facing us as individuals  
11   and as a nation. I know you understand the economic  
12   impact of the resource and product specialization of  
13   nations, dependence upon foreign nations, and  
14   opportunity costs among nations.

15                  The Keystone XL Pipeline is a strategic  
16   partnership that will enable us to engage in actions  
17   that will continue to address the issue of the  
18   scarcity of energy resources to reduce and  
19   effectively manage the risk associated with energy  
20   assets, and to prosper from the spillover benefits of  
21   this project.

22                  Our college supports the development of

1 the Keystone XL Pipeline and urges your favorable  
2 consideration of the project so southeast Texas can  
3 continue to fuel America.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

5 MR. SZUCH: Thank you very much.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. COLEMAN: Number 79.

9 MR. ROSS: Yes.

10 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. ROSS: My name is Christopher Ross.

12 I'm an independent consultant living in Houston. And  
13 I teach at the CT Bower School of Business at the  
14 University of Houston.

15 I'm co-chair of the Energy Policy  
16 Subcommittee for the Greater Houston Partnership, and  
17 strongly support the Partnership's advocacy of a  
18 balanced national energy policy. Such a policy will  
19 encourage the responsible development of domestic  
20 resources, both fossil and renewable, to provide  
21 affordable secure energy.

22 Houston has a strong interest in a  
23

1     balanced energy policy since over 50 percent of our  
2     economy depends on energy.

3             The Partnership a few months ago developed  
4     a resolution in favor of the Keystone XL Project as a  
5     critical piece of infrastructure that will make a  
6     substantial contribution to a balanced national  
7     energy policy.

8             It will allow access to Canadian oil  
9     sands, a vast resource that will increase the  
10    security of our oil supplies. It will provide  
11    supplies of heavy oil to refineries and link  
12    petrochemical plants in Houston and Port Arthur that  
13    are necessary to supplement declining production in  
14    Mexico and Venezuela.

15            Further, capacity from Keystone XL will be  
16    made available to ship domestic oil production to  
17    refineries. And expanding domestic oil production is  
18    now bottlenecked for lack of pipeline capacity.

19            WTI crude oil is trading at a discount of  
20    \$20 a barrel below its international equivalent,  
21    Brent crude oil; and similar quality Bakken crude oil  
22    from North Dakota has been priced about \$10 a barrel

23

1     below WTI. These prices reduce the economic  
2     incentive for oil companies to develop this critical  
3     new domestic resource.

4             If you compare the benefits to the  
5     economy, to jobs and to national security, to the  
6     very low risks of the pipeline identified in your own  
7     studies, I'm confident that you will find the  
8     Keystone XL Project to be in the national interest.

9             Thank you.

10            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Thank you.

11            (Applause.)

12            MS. COLEMAN: Number 80. Thank you.

13            MS. DA SILVA: My name is Cathy DaSilva,  
14     D-a-S-i-l-v-a.

15            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

16            MS. DA SILVA: I live in Nacogdoches,  
17     Texas. The Keystone XL is slated to come across my  
18     county.

19            I am opposed to the pipeline.

20            The Final Environmental Impact Statement  
21     fails to adequately address the environmental impacts  
22     and safety risk posed by the pipeline. Transporting  
23

1 corrosive tar sands oil through a pipeline can lead  
2 to spills and leaks. There were more than 30 spills  
3 experienced in Canada and the United States by the  
4 first Keystone Pipeline within the first year of  
5 operation.

6 According to the State Department, several  
7 small leaks on the Keystone XL could spill as much as  
8 five percent of its capacity, or 1.7 million gallons  
9 a day, without triggering its leak detection system.  
10 That's according to the State Department.

11 The pipeline would cross the Ogallala  
12 aquifer and the Chozoma Wilcox aquifer, along with  
13 numerous major rivers. A leak would pollute our  
14 drinking water and farmland across the heartland of  
15 the United States. And it poses unacceptable health  
16 and safety risk.

17 Texas has had over 300 consecutive days of  
18 wildfire. Wildfires were not considered in the FEIS.  
19 When landowners are being told by TransCanada that  
20 they cannot drive across this pipeline, how will the  
21 firefighters address these fires?

22 The United States is assuming all of the  
23

1 risk of this project with very few benefits. Not  
2 only is this pipeline not in our national interest,  
3 it will be detrimental to the United States if it is  
4 built.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comments.  
7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: Number 81, please.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. COLEMAN: Number 81 or 82.

12 MR. BOLENBAUGH: 81.

13 MS. COLEMAN: 81. Thank you.

14 MR. BOLENBAUGH: I just saw -- I drove  
15 here from Michigan. I'm a Navy veteran, Bronze Star.  
16 I'm a current union worker.

17 My name is John, J-o-h-n, Bolenbaugh, B-o-  
18 l-e-n-b-a-u-g-h. Go to Youtube and you'll see all  
19 the proof you need.

20 I need extra time since he asked for my  
21 name.

22 All right. What happened here is there

23

1       was an oil spill in Michigan. I worked on the  
2       Keystone Pipeline the first time. And now, I was a  
3       current worker on the oil spill in Michigan.

4               What happened was the company told us to  
5       bury oil. We have people that are union workers like  
6       you that were given 1000 -- I mean \$100,000 to shut  
7       their mouth. They have told me on video that they  
8       did. I have union foremen that have came forward to  
9       me and snuck me information and snuck me MSDS sheets  
10      that you guys don't want to give out because I had a  
11      meeting -- I have hundreds of people that are sick --  
12      seizures, death, coma -- their children are  
13      deformed.

14             This is what your companies are doing.  
15      And they're paying you good money, and you're not  
16      going to say anything about it because you don't want  
17      to lose your job.

18             2500 people worked with me. I'm the only  
19      one that complained. All right? I have so much  
20      video proof.

21             (Applause.)

22             MR. BOLENBAUGH: A forty-mile stretch of  
23



1 river -- 40 miles -- every fish died. A semi full of  
2 animals was dead. EPA says it never happened; I saw  
3 it with my own two eyes. All right?

4 The oil sinks. Sand tar oil does not  
5 float; it sinks. The whole river is full of it. It  
6 is everywhere. They put sand over the top of the  
7 oil. You dig down a foot and oil gushes up. It  
8 looks nice and lean, but, guess what, it's not.

9 These people are getting sick and they're  
10 going to get sick for ten, 15, 20 years to come. I  
11 know you don't want to lose or not have a job.  
12 That's very important. But you've got to remember:  
13 Money is not more important than people.

14 And I gave up a \$2300 a week job to tell  
15 the truth. And you won't do that.

16 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

17 (Cheers and applause.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

19 Number 82, please. Number 82.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. COLEMAN: Or number 83?

22 MR. VAN DELLEN: 84.

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: 84, please, sir.

2 What's your name, sir?

3 MR. VAN DELLEN: I'm Adrian VanDellen, V-  
4 a-n-D-e-l-l-e-n.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

6 MR. VAN DELLEN: I'm with the Piney Woods  
7 Sierra Club group. And I had a prepared statement to  
8 provide to you all with my thoughts on this. And  
9 unfortunately, you all beat me to it.

10 What I'd like to do is emphasize what John  
11 just told you.

12 I was at that Michigan oil spill a few  
13 weeks ago. I sank down in the oil that the EPA said,  
14 'It's clean.' Let me tell you how that would affect  
15 us here in East Texas.

16 The pipeline goes across seven major river  
17 systems, many, many, many creeks. Highway 84 to  
18 Highway 21, there's a 20 mile stretch of about six or  
19 seven, eight creeks just like the one at Michigan.  
20 Talmadge Creek is where it spilled.

21 In East Texas a 20 mile stretch, a leak  
22 would be within 40 miles of one of the four large

23

1       reservoirs in Texas, Sam Rayburn. Don't think it  
2       can't happen here. They are not cleaning it up in  
3       Michigan because they can't. It's too expensive and  
4       it's almost inaccessible.

5                So let's think about safety. It's really  
6       not about oil; it's about water. I can't drink oil.  
7       You need water for that.

8                (Applause.)

9                Thank you very much.

10               And as far as jobs, the jobs aren't with  
11       this pipeline. You've heard the testimony. It's  
12       true. Where the jobs are is in the clean renewable  
13       economy. We need to move forward to the future, not  
14       backwards with oil.

15               Thank you.

16               MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
17       I appreciate it.

18               (Applause.)

19               MS. COLEMAN: Number 85. 85.

20               (No response.)

21               MS. COLEMAN: 86.

22               (No response.)

23

1 MS. MARTEL: 87.

2 MS. COLEMAN: 87, please. Thank you.

3 MS. MARTEL: Good evening. With all due  
4 respect, actually I would like to address the  
5 proponents of the Keystone Pipeline and, you know,  
6 really let you guys know what we're up against.

7 My name is Kendal Martel, K-e-n-d-a-l M-a-  
8 r-t-e-l.

9 I was born in Beaumont, Texas, okay? A  
10 lot of my family are roughnecks. My grandfather was  
11 a rice farmer. My other grandfather was a logger.  
12 So it's real interesting that I love the outdoors so  
13 much.

14 But it's because from the moment I could  
15 walk I was hunting, I was fishing, I was outside with  
16 my daddy. And to think that because of corruption  
17 and because of greed all these things are going to be  
18 taken away, it really hurts my heart.

19 But what hurts my heart even more is to  
20 see people like you being lied to and to see you  
21 being led on, such hard-working wonderful people.

22 I would like to --

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. MARTEL: Hold on.

3 I would like to address the people that  
4 are sitting up there.

5 If you notice, on their nametag it says  
6 Cardno ENTRIX. Cardno ENTRIX strategy is to increase  
7 its proportion of revenue from resources and energy  
8 business, including oil and gas, mining and  
9 industrial sources. One of Cardno's top clients is  
10 BP and TransCanada. Okay?

11 These people are hired by BP and by  
12 TransCanada.

13 What my grandfather and my dad always told  
14 me was to never trust anybody that's selling you  
15 something if they stand to make a lot of money off  
16 what they're telling you. And I can guarantee that  
17 all you guys know that that's true. That's how we  
18 live our lives.

19 We do not believe what people are telling  
20 us if they stand to make a lot of money off of it.

21 And I'm shaking -- I'm not even nervous --  
22 I'm shaking with anger right now because every  
23

1     single one of you remind me of my daddy and my  
2     grandfather, and this is not right. This is not  
3     right by any stretch of the imagination.

4             These people are sitting up there, they're  
5     not the Department of State; they're Cardno ENTRIX,  
6     hired by TransCanada. You can go on any website, any  
7     website and look up that information and it's right  
8     there.

9             And with all due respect -- I appreciate  
10    you for being here -- but all of us, you guys, me,  
11    us, and all of you guys here in orange, all of you  
12    guys back here, all of you guys over here in suits,  
13    we all need to realize when we're being lied to.

14            That is not America. This is not a  
15    fascist oligarchy; this is not a plutocracy. This is  
16    a democracy, and money can't buy democracy. And I'm  
17    sick of it.

18            (Applause.)

19            MS. MARTEL: And I hope you are, too.

20            And I hope you think that one day you're  
21    going to have to look at your child dying of cancer,  
22    or your grandfather, like I did, or anybody in your

23

1 family and see them sitting there dying of leukemia  
2 and know that that blood is on our hands.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments,  
5 ma'am. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Do we have 88? 88?

8 (No response.)

9 MS. COLEMAN: 89? Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

10 MS. BERGEN: My name is Elisa Bergen and  
11 I'm the executive director of the Texas Drought  
12 Project, which is a 501(c)(3) founded specifically to  
13 address the issue of water scarcity in Texas.

14 It is our contention and that of our  
15 advisory board that the Federal Environmental Impact  
16 Statement does not take into account current research  
17 on drought and climate change in Texas. Dr. Richard  
18 Seeger of the Lamont Dougherty Earth Observatory Unit  
19 at Columbia University has stated that possibly as  
20 early as the year 2020 the State of Texas will move  
21 into a state of perpetual drought.

22 This is not something that stands entirely

23

1 on water usage or stands entirely on pollution, or  
2 even stands entirely on matters related to heat and  
3 climate change. This is something that comes  
4 together as the result of all of those factors.

5 Right now there are three major Texas  
6 cities that are in the top ten for cities that will  
7 lose their water resources within the next two  
8 decades. Houston is number two on that list; having  
9 lost one of its major resources already and moving  
10 towards a period where there will be even less.

11 One of my advisors, Dr. Gerald North, told  
12 me just the other day that we stand on the precipice  
13 of losing most of our agriculture in this state,  
14 something which may inject as much as \$42 billion  
15 into this economy. We cannot stand to lose any more  
16 water or endanger any more water resources in that  
17 state.

18 And for that reason the Texas Drought  
19 Project and its preeminent research scientists that  
20 make up its advisory board oppose the Keystone  
21 Pipeline.

22 Thank you.



1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

2 I appreciate it.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: Do we have number 90?

5 Yes. Thank you.

6 MS. HAMILTON: I am Vaness Hamilton from  
7 Lake City, Texas. I'm a board member of Galveston  
8 Bay Keeper, a member organization of Water Keeper  
9 Alliance.

10 Thank you for this opportunity to declare  
11 my opposition to the Keystone XL Pipeline Project.

12 On the cover the tar sands pipeline safety  
13 risk report stand two sand hill cranes.

14 I am a seventh generation Texan by way of  
15 my mother's side of the family. Our forefather  
16 founded the first German settlement in Texas in the  
17 mid-1800s, not far from Brenham and Cat Springs. The  
18 natural resources and beauty of the land compelled  
19 him to stop and settle there.

20 In his letters inviting his friends from  
21 home to emigrate to America he described the gently  
22 rolling hills, clear streams of fresh water, and

23

1     fertile land for raising crops and cattle as a place  
2     to sustain a community for generations.

3                 My parents both came from rural  
4     communities and instilled in me a love of nature and  
5     a responsibility to preserve and nurture the bounty  
6     of Mother Nature. My father particularly shared his  
7     love of sand hill cranes with us.

8                 For us the arrival of the cranes heralds  
9     the coming of the autumn and welcome relief of  
10    summer's heat. It is an instinctual path they  
11    traverse each year to their wintering grounds.

12                In North America the endangered whooping  
13    crane and the sand hill crane migrate from their  
14    breeding grounds on the tundra of Canada and Alaska  
15    through the marshes and grasslands of the northern  
16    states to the coastal prairies of Texas. Their  
17    journey and existence are fraught with peril.

18                Cranes across the planet are threatened by  
19    habitat destruction. In parts of Texas and Nebraska  
20    these stately birds with lineage dating back 40 to 60  
21    million years are hunted. The Platt River in  
22    Nebraska hosts half a million cranes. It is the

23

1     largest concentration of the species of cranes  
2     anywhere on the planet.

3                 MS. COLEMAN:   Ma'am, are you -- Are you  
4     able to --

5                 MS. HAMILTON:   The Keystone XL Pipeline is  
6     not good for sand hill cranes, the Platt River,  
7     Nebraska, Texas, and it's certainly not good for the  
8     people of the United States of America.

9                 MS. COLEMAN:   Thank you for your comments.  
10    I appreciate it.

11                 (Applause.)

12                 MS. COLEMAN:   Number 91.

13                 MS. TURK:   Hello.   Thank you so much for  
14    being here.   And this is truly what the freedom that  
15    we have in the United States --

16                 MS. COLEMAN:   Thank you.

17                 MS. TURK:   -- is all about.   And we hope  
18    you go back and thank the State Department and  
19    President Obama, and tell him that there are many of  
20    us who are deeply, deeply concerned about our  
21    children, our grandchildren.

22                 And we support the Keystone XL Pipeline

23

1     job. We support the people who will be getting  
2     additional jobs and making the safest possible  
3     pipeline, and put that together and bring it down to  
4     Texas, where, incidentally, we have the birding  
5     capital right in our particular southeast Texas  
6     region.

7                 Many of our oil rigs in most of our areas  
8     around the Bolivar peninsula, the Galveston County,  
9     from Jefferson County to Chambers to Bolivar, it is  
10    the birding capital of the world.

11                And I have -- my name is Jeannie Turk, T-  
12    u-r-k --

13                MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

14                MS. TURK: -- so that you can put it into  
15    the record.

16                And I have a small business. And I've  
17    been working on water quality issues for about 35  
18    years.

19                I also helped to clean up the Houston ship  
20    channel and stopped several hazardous dumps that were  
21    causing pollution in southeast Texas, with a lot of  
22    help from a whole lot of people in a lot of the area.

23

1 And I'm deeply interested in water quality.

2 But we have a company that has done their  
3 research, put in the permits, had the public  
4 hearings. And it's one of the safest products. And  
5 my friend, Todd Grimes back here, is an expert. This  
6 will not only create jobs for our region and our area  
7 and help promote our refineries, which supports,  
8 incidentally --

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, ma'am. I'm sorry  
10 --

11 MS. TURK: Okay. We'll turn it in.

12 MS. COLEMAN: -- we're so out of time.

13 MS. TURK: But thank you.

14 MS. COLEMAN: But please submit your  
15 comments --

16 MS. TURK: Okay.

17 MS. COLEMAN: -- to the people at the  
18 table or however you want to do it.

19 MS. TURK: Okay.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Okay?

21 MS. TURK: But the last thing -- last but  
22 not least, our military deserves our support. And

23

1     our military and our national defense can't function  
2     without this type of supply of oil in the refineries  
3     in our area that serve our nation.

4             MS. COLEMAN: I appreciate your comment.  
5     Thank you very much.

6             (Applause.)

7             MS. COLEMAN: Do we have 92, please?

8             Your name, sir?

9             MR. COONS: William Coons, C-o-o-n-s.

10            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

11            MR. COONS: I retired in 1988 from Texaco  
12     Port Arthur Research Laboratories. I was the manager  
13     there. And the last 15 years of my service I  
14     supervised the metallurgical group and the  
15     environmental group, research group at that  
16     laboratory.

17            We received every metallurgical failure,  
18     major metallurgical failure that occurred anywhere in  
19     Texaco, worldwide, including pipelines, refineries,  
20     you name it. So I'm very familiar with pipelines.  
21     We had very few failures of pipelines.

22            There was one that was manufactured a long

23

1     time ago and we had a lot of problems with that. But  
2     it was just the fact that it was built so long ago.

3             And this -- at the time I came to work  
4     here the crude oil to all these refineries came in by  
5     pipeline. And the products, most of them went out by  
6     tanker. Now the crude comes in by tanker and a lot  
7     of the products go out by pipeline.

8             At the time I moved here -- the air  
9     nowadays is pristine to what it was when I came here  
10    in 1955. In 1955 you wouldn't even eat a fish out of  
11    Sabine Lake, hardly. Now it's one of the best  
12    fishing places in the country. And that's all  
13    because of industry things.

14            Now we talk about the metals and sulfur in  
15    the tar sands. I'm a chemical engineer. Our job is  
16    to take care of those things. And I guarantee you  
17    they can take care of processing those crudes and  
18    they will meet the environmental emissions standards  
19    at the refineries just as they always have. And  
20    they'll solve that.

21            It's not an insurmountable problem. And  
22    we need the oil. We need to -- for our country.

1                   And I'm sorry that so many of the  
2   environmental people left, but I couldn't believe  
3   they all drove over here and didn't walk.

4                   (Applause.)

5                   MR. COONS:   And if they come 20 years from  
6   now they'll still be driving hydrocarbon processing  
7   plants.

8                   MS. COLEMAN:   Sir, okay.   Thank you again  
9   for your comments, sir.

10                  (Applause.)

11                  MS. COLEMAN:   93.

12                  MR. BLAKEWOOD:   Yes.

13                  MS. COLEMAN:   Okay.   Thank you.   Your  
14   name, sir.

15                  MR. BLAKEWOOD:   My name is Griff, G-r-i-f-  
16   f, Blakewood, B-l-a-k-e-w-o-o-d.

17                  And this is a little far for the bike, but  
18   I do ride a bike to work every day.   I come in peace  
19   and I speak for our mother.

20                  This earth is the most sublime miracle in  
21   the universe, as well as the only home we will ever  
22   know.   It is also the only home for millions of other  
23



1 species, most of which are now in decline because the  
2 humans, still laboring under the delusion of  
3 dominion, have determined that they have no worth.

4 But we, like they, are but one leaf on the  
5 evolving tree of life. But we have been seduced by  
6 power, the power of the machines, and addicted to the  
7 extravagant levels of energy they demand.

8 This addiction to power and to machines  
9 has blinded us to what fossil fuels really are. They  
10 are the bodies of plants who, after performing the  
11 miracle of photosynthesis, were buried in the earth,  
12 millions upon millions of generations, turning  
13 sunshine and water and CO2 into oxygen, enough to  
14 allow some earthlings to learn to fly -- the cranes -  
15 - and others to think and love and dance.

16 But then we became addicted to the  
17 machines and we forgot our mother. And we tore her  
18 very bowels.

19 And when the oil no longer shot up from  
20 the ground, we attacked this earth with increasingly  
21 desperate acts of violence, blowing up living  
22 mountaintops, dumping the rubble into living valleys

23

1 to scrape out the coal, fracturing the very crust of  
2 the earth for tiny bubbles of gas trapped there;  
3 drilling sideways a mile below the surface of the  
4 Gulf with disastrous impacts we have all witnessed  
5 and in many cases suffered.

6           And we find ourselves here tonight  
7 considering the bulldozing of forests to get at, not  
8 dirty oil, but dirty sand, which must be cooked with  
9 gas so the oil can be pumped using fossil fuels  
10 through 1700 miles of steel, forged with fossil  
11 fuels, to a refinery where more fossil fuel will be  
12 used to make a product to power another machine  
13 which, like all the machines before it will put the  
14 carbon captured and stored --

15           MS. COLEMAN: Sir, we're running out of  
16 time.

17           MR. BLAKEWOOD: -- by the plants back in  
18 the earth.

19           Texas is burning. The climate is  
20 changing. We can find another way. Choose life.

21           Thank you.

22           MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your

23

1       comments.

2                       (Applause.)

3                       MS. COLEMAN:   Do we have 94?   94?

4                       (No response.)

5                       MS. COLEMAN:   95?

6                       MR. MICHOT:   Yeah.   My name is Bobby

7   Michot, M-i-c-h-o-t.

8                       With all due respect to our veterans here,  
9   I thought the official reason we were fighting people  
10   in the Middle East was to defend us against  
11   terrorism, not to protect the oil.   If that's a big  
12   lie, boy, it sure got spread around.

13                      But anyway, yeah.   All them, that tar  
14   sands up in Canada, you know, we say, 'Well, it's not  
15   going to affect us up here.'   Just think of the size  
16   of Sabine Lake, Galveston Bay and Lake Pontchartrain  
17   and Calcasieu Lake all put together as toxic lakes  
18   left after they dig for that tar sand.

19                      The thing that kills ducks and geese -- I  
20   know you all like to hunt -- they're not going to be  
21   coming down here as much anymore.   You all might make  
22   money for one generation.

23

1                   What about you all's' grandparents that  
2     came here from south Louisiana all over Texas to come  
3     work in the Port Arthur area in late '40s and '50s.  
4     They thought they were going to have a windfall for  
5     their grandchildren. In the '80s it didn't happen  
6     like that, you know.

7                   And what's going to be keeping that oil?  
8     When they bring it down here, that crude oil, they're  
9     putting it on a boat and having it refined in  
10    Venezuela and selling it to China. They done it  
11    before; they'll do it again. They sold you all jobs  
12    out to China; they're going to do it again.

13                  So you all can believe them, man. Go  
14    ahead.

15                  MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
16    comments. Appreciate it.

17                  (Applause.)

18                  MS. COLEMAN: Number 96.

19                  Your name, sir.

20                  MR. STEPHENS: My name is David, D-a-v-i-  
21    d, Stephens, S-t-e-p-h-e-n-s.

22                  MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

23

1                   MR. STEPHENS: I am a proud Vietnam-era  
2 veteran of the United States Air Force.

3                   (Applause.)

4                   MR. STEPHENS: It took me a long time to  
5 get over a lot of crap.

6                   I'm sorry about that. Okay?

7                   But I'm all for America. I'm for  
8 Americans. And I'm not here just to represent this  
9 city, this state; I'm here for Americans.

10                  We have a problem.

11                  One, nuclear power takes ten-plus years to  
12 build and commission. Solar power has not had any  
13 major advances in decades. We have electric cars but  
14 they're not produced in proficient quantities to be  
15 effective in trying to make a dent in our pursuit of  
16 getting away from oil.

17                  If we stop drilling -- which we've already  
18 driven away most of our rigs out of the Gulf of  
19 Mexico for probably three-plus years -- you cannot go  
20 out to your nearest oil rig provider and buy yourself  
21 a new oil rig right out of the parking lot. It  
22 doesn't happen.

23

1                   Drilling costs are \$250,000 to \$500,000 a  
2   day. That's money in our economy that is gone. We  
3   need to get it back. The problem is at \$250,000 and  
4   \$500,000 a day, these rig operators moved off to  
5   Nigeria and Brazil, Venezuela, China, India, and  
6   Russia and the Mediterranean. And we're not going to  
7   see them for at least three years.

8                   We did a great job of saying, 'We don't  
9   want to drill here.'

10                  By saying we're not going to drill here,  
11   that puts us dependent on foreign oil because the  
12   alternative energy which we desperately need to  
13   pursue, we are not pursuing at the rate we should be  
14   pursuing it.

15                  MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

16                  MR. STEPHENS: In closing, I'll just say  
17   I'm supportive of this project because it's a link  
18   between us getting off oil --

19                  MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

20                  MR. STEPHENS: -- to moving to alternative  
21   energy.

22                  MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. Thank  
23

1     you for your comments.

2                     (Applause.)

3                     MS. COLEMAN:   Number 97.

4                     MR. MARTIN:   Yes.   Thank you for holding  
5     these hearings.

6                     My name is Haywood Martin.   That's H-a-y-  
7     w-o-o-d M-a-r-t-i-n.   I'm a volunteer with Sierra  
8     Club, live in Lafayette, Louisiana.

9                     I'm also a Vietnam era veteran.   And I'm  
10    proud of that.   And I'm proud of the service of all  
11    of our military personnel to our country.

12                    But my point here is about the pipeline  
13    and it's -- I wish to take issue with the finding of  
14    no significant impact is one thing.   It's not an  
15    appropriate determination to issue such a finding on  
16    a project in which 1711 miles of pipeline, 36 inches,  
17    crosses two Canadian provinces and six states with  
18    constructed support including 30 pump stations, 112  
19    mainline valves, 60 permanent -- excuse me, 50  
20    permanent access roads, new oil storage facilities in  
21    Cushing, Oklahoma, electric transmission distribution  
22    lines to supply power.

23

1                   This -- and not even a look at the climate  
2   change issues created by the use of the -- or the  
3   combustion of the oil, eventual combustion -- the  
4   production and the combustion of oil that will come  
5   through that pipeline. This represents a huge step  
6   towards the industrialization of the American  
7   heartland.

8                   The Keystone XL Pipeline is not in the  
9   U.S. national interests when we look at the long term  
10  catastrophic effects of over-reliance on fossil  
11  fuels. It is in the U.S. interest to participate  
12  with the international community of nations to seek  
13  real reductions in carbon emissions.

14                  The U.S., by its refusal to take up and  
15  pass reasonable climate legislation, has refused to  
16  accept its responsibility for leadership among  
17  nations in significant reductions of carbon  
18  emissions. The leadership -- the Keystone XL  
19  Pipeline determination can be a turning point.

20                  The U.S. should again assume international  
21  leadership, should demonstrate its will to resolve  
22  the potentially catastrophic global climate change



1     problem --

2                   MS. COLEMAN:   Thank you.

3                   MR. MARTIN:   -- by stopping the Keystone  
4     XL Pipeline.   And for all of you who are so proud of  
5     what industry has done to keep the air clean, don't  
6     forget about the Clean Air Act.   And stop voting for  
7     politicians that want to destroy the Clean Air Act.  
8     It's part of what keeps --

9                   MS. COLEMAN:   Thank you.

10                  MR. MARTIN:   -- the air safe for people in  
11     the communities that refine this oil.

12                  MS. COLEMAN:   Okay.   Thank you for your  
13     comments.   I appreciate it.

14                   (Applause.)

15                  MS. COLEMAN:   Number 98.

16                  MR. MCCOY:    Yes, ma'am.

17                  My name is Bill McCoy.   I'm the president  
18     of the Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce.   We represent  
19     600 businesses here in this community.

20                  And let me say up front that we are for  
21     the Keystone Pipeline coming to our area.

22                  I am disappointed also that some of the

23

1     folks left earlier because I wanted to tell them,  
2     when they get back home tell Peter Pan I said, 'Hi,'  
3     because this is the real world, not Never-Neverland.

4                     (Applause.)

5                     MR. MC COY:  And they're going to get  
6     there on their gasoline powered buses painted by oil-  
7     based paint on tires made possible by oil on highways  
8     coated with oil, kept safe by plastic barrels made  
9     from derivatives of oil, kept in the middle of the  
10    road by reflective paint that comes from oil, and  
11    warned when they get close by a sign that's brightly  
12    lit and covered with a plastic probably a derivative  
13    of oil, put on their synthetic clothes, their fake  
14    furs, their fake shoes, all probably made possible by  
15    oil.

16                    So I just want to tell them that, yes,  
17    there are problems.  But the United States of America  
18    will solve those problems and approve that.  If you  
19    listen to all the dialects and the languages that  
20    were here tonight, people keep pouring into this poor  
21    dirty old country to work and make a life for their  
22    family.  Port Arthur, Texas says welcome.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MR. MC COY: Bring it on down.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.

5 I appreciate it.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. COLEMAN: Number 99, please.

8 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you for allowing me

9 to speak at this meeting.

10 My name is Black Schroeder, B-l-a-c-k S-c-  
11 h-r-o-e-d-e-r. I'm a business representative for  
12 Pipeliners Local Union 798.

13 I was born and raised right here in  
14 Jefferson County. I've made my living for over 30  
15 years as a pipeline welder. Now I represent 7000  
16 pipeline workers.

17 The Keystone Pipeline is the largest and  
18 most controversial pipeline project ever been built  
19 in America. I've researched and listened to a lot of  
20 opinions. Everyone has a valid point.

21 The bottom line is the Keystone Pipeline  
22 will create jobs and thousands of Americans stand to

23

1     benefit from the revenue.

2                   What better way to stimulate the American  
3     economy with TransCanada picking up the tab.

4                   I understand that as a country we need to  
5     look at as many environmentally-friendly approaches  
6     as possible. I do believe this country needs  
7     organizations that are concerned about our  
8     environment. Our environment is something we should  
9     not take lightly.

10                  I support natural gas powered vehicles,  
11     wind power, solar power and nuclear energy. But we  
12     are not quite there yet.

13                  As the greatest country in the world, we  
14     cannot afford to go backwards in time. If you cut  
15     off all supplies of fossil fuel right now millions of  
16     Americans on this Gulf Coast and other parts of  
17     America would lose their jobs. This nation would  
18     come to a complete standstill.

19                  We do have green contractors and have a  
20     highly trained skilled workforce. For decades they  
21     have been working under FERC guidelines and also DOT.  
22     They are experts in protecting our environment and

23

1 building pipelines right.

2 The Keystone Pipeline and pumping stations  
3 does not need to be built by some cheap contractor  
4 that does not hire American citizens. We need  
5 American jobs for American workers.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. SCHROEDER: If the pipeline is built  
8 right, it is the safest, cheapest, most reliable way  
9 to transport oil. Billions of gallons of oil are  
10 transported through thousands of miles of pipelines  
11 each year with very few incidents.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Sir --

13 MR. SCHROEDER: At the present time it  
14 makes perfect sense -- even common sense -- to  
15 approve the Keystone Pipeline, with Canada being the  
16 largest supplier of all to the U.S.

17 We can sit back and watch Canada buy it  
18 and then sell it back to us at a much higher cost, or  
19 we can put America back to work.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. COLEMAN: Number 100.

23

1                   Thank you.

2                   MR. TROY: My name is Robert Troy, T-r-o-  
3    y.

4                   They told me when I signed up that 100 was  
5    a lucky number. So I hope it is.

6                   MS. COLEMAN: I hope so, too.

7                   MR. TROY: I had a speech that I printed  
8    up that I was going to present here. But I think I'm  
9    going to take the speech and put it back over here  
10   and let them have it.

11                  But I have one thing to say. And I am not  
12   against the pipeline; I'm against what's coming  
13   through it.

14                  I'm a union man. I was a union rep. I'm  
15   retired. I know how unions talk to the members, and  
16   I know how they tell you things. I told my members  
17   the same things that your officials probably told  
18   you.

19                  They don't tell you everything. They're  
20   interested in jobs. And I am interested in jobs.  
21   And jobs is what we need. But we also need this  
22   economy. We also need this environment. And all you  
23

1     got to do is look at how the environment is  
2     drastically deteriorated up in Alberta, Canada. It's  
3     an environmental disaster.

4             Over 500 square miles of trail pools --  
5     that's contaminated water from washing out the sand  
6     and clay from the oil so it could be processed and  
7     sent into the pipeline. This is the thing that we  
8     need.

9             Do we really need to put this much more  
10    emission into an atmosphere that's already overloaded  
11    with it? This oil, it's not going to create that  
12    much economy here in -- Port Arthur's where I live.  
13    And I live right next to a refinery.

14            I don't know what you people, your  
15    families and so forth does. I know what it does to  
16    me. My Port Arthur has one of the highest cancer  
17    rates in the state.

18            I'm a cancer victim. I don't know how  
19    much longer I'm going to be here. But I would like  
20    to be here long enough to see my grandkids graduate  
21    from school.

22            Thank you.

1                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
2    comments.

3                   (Applause.)

4                   MS. COLEMAN: Number 101.

5                   Thank you.

6                   MS. COLEMAN: Come on down, 101, 102.  
7    Come on down.

8                   MR. LEGGETT: My name is Godfrey Leggett.  
9    I retired from Exxon Mobile in 2000.

10                  My friend, Shane Howard, who's left, said  
11    that green energy, you're not going to get it by just  
12    wishing for it. And he's right. You know, you don't  
13    get it unless you work at it. And we need to start  
14    working right now.

15                  In about 1956, '54, a geologist who worked  
16    for Chevron Phillips, M. King Hubert, published  
17    Hubert's Peak, talking about peak oil. We are headed  
18    for a crisis and we don't even know it. Our elected  
19    leaders don't even consider it.

20                  When the Brits discovered the North Sea  
21    fields they said, 'Whoa, we are fixed up now; we got  
22    oil from now on.' All the North Sea fields are in  
23



1       decline and they're now importers of oil.

2               The Norwegians had seven major oil fields.

3       They thought they were in good shape. Six of those  
4       seven oil fields are in decline right now.

5               There's only three oil fields in the whole  
6       world that ever produced a million or more barrels of  
7       oil a day. One's in Qatar, one's in Mexico, the  
8       Cantrell field, and one's in Saudi Arabia, the Ghawar  
9       field, which is the big daddy. It produced more oil  
10      than any other field in the world.

11              However, they're now injecting 500,000  
12      barrels a day of seawater into the Ghawar field to  
13      get it to produce the oil they need to produce. And  
14      it's coming out at a 30 percent water cut, which  
15      means it's going to get more and more water and it's  
16      going to go belly-up too one day.

17              We are headed for an oil crisis. And the  
18      oil we're getting from the tar sands, that won't help  
19      us. It's not going to be enough.

20              We haven't been able to produce enough oil  
21      to take care of our needs in this country since 1976.  
22      We will never, ever reach the production levels we

23

1     had in 1980 ever again in the lifetime of this  
2     country. We need to understand that and deal with  
3     it.

4             We are kidding ourselves to think that  
5     this oil sand business will do us any good. And it's  
6     the dirtiest possible way to get oil. It's hurting  
7     our environment.

8             I don't think -- most people don't believe  
9     in climate change. They think it's some kind of  
10    silly thing the scientists came up with, the Fox News  
11    always poking fun at it. Ridiculous. It's true.  
12    It's real. And we need to worry about it.

13            Get your head out of the tar sands because  
14    one day you're going to be a bug on the windshield  
15    when the oil crunch gets here. And it's not too far  
16    off.

17            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir. I  
18    appreciate your comments.

19            (Applause.)

20            MS. COLEMAN: Number 102.

21            MR. MARTIN: Thank you for holding this  
22    and allowing me to speak.

23

1                   My name is Devon Martin. I'm from  
2   Lafayette, Louisiana.

3                   And I'd like to say that I'm really  
4   impressed by the turnout and the quality of comments  
5   that we've had today. This is what America is truly  
6   all about, and I'm really glad to hear everybody and  
7   see everybody come out. I really think, you know, at  
8   the end of the day, this is what's really important.

9                   I've heard a lot of good comments,  
10   especially the recognition that we're in the Middle  
11   East because of oil. You know, several years ago  
12   when I was in high school, I was telling folks that's  
13   why we were over there. And people told me I was  
14   crazy: 'You must be on the same side as the  
15   terrorists.'

16                  But now here we are as a country and we  
17   can all seem to agree that we are in the Middle East  
18   for oil. And so if you want to consider the Middle  
19   Eastern oil dirty oil, well, I'm right on with you.  
20   It is dirty oil.

21                  But let me tell you something else. All  
22   oil is dirty oil.

23

1                   Just a little while ago, you know, last  
2   year, not too long ago, we had a little incident in  
3   Louisiana -- the BP oil disaster. Right? That's  
4   good, clean American oil that was over there from the  
5   Gulf of Mexico.

6                   Talk to the people who are sick right now.  
7   Talk to the people who are digging this stuff.

8                   In fact, when I was explaining to one of  
9   my Cajun coon-ass friends what I was coming to do  
10  over here today, you know, he said, 'Well what are  
11  you going over there for?' I said, 'Well, look,  
12  they've got this pipeline; they're going to take  
13  these oil sands in Canada, put them in a pipeline and  
14  send them on to Texas where we're going to refine it  
15  and we're going to stick it on boats and sell it to  
16  somebody' -- whoever has the most money; it doesn't  
17  necessarily mean they're going to have it and sell it  
18  to us.

19                   Right now China has got the most money.  
20  Their money is actually worth something. A lot of  
21  this oil is going to end up in China, folks.

22                   So, you know, he heard all this and he  
23

1     said, 'So we're going to have a pipeline from Canada  
2     all the way down to Texas? Why don't we just come to  
3     the Gulf of Mexico? We got all the tar sands you can  
4     want all along our own Gulf right now from good clean  
5     American oil.'

6                     (Applause.)

7                     MR. MARTIN: This Keystone Pipeline  
8     Company, Keystone built their first pipeline; they  
9     said it would have one spill every seven years. It  
10    just started in 2010; it's already had 14 spills.

11                    All right. This company is not a good  
12    company.

13                    I want you to know who your allegiance is  
14    with. All right?

15                    I'm a union guy. My grandfather started  
16    the union in the early '50s. He fought in World War  
17    II in the Philippines, in Okinawa. He came back; he  
18    dedicated his life to improving his community. He  
19    started a labor union in a place where people  
20    couldn't even afford to buy their own home because  
21    they were so screwed over by the sugar mill. And he  
22    was called a Bolshevik and a communist.

23

1                   Know where your allegiance lies. These  
2   guys are not on your side. Okay?

3                   Thank you.

4                   MS. COLEMAN: Sir, thank you very much for  
5   your comments.

6                   (Applause.)

7                   MS. COLEMAN: Number 103, please.

8                   MS. MOORE: My name is P-a-u-l-a M-o-o-r-  
9   e.

10                  I've pretty much cut out everything I was  
11   going to speak on. But what you all need to know is  
12   that the Keystone Pipeline is not like every other  
13   pipeline. It's going to be a product that is acidic,  
14   sulfurous and sandy. It is sent under higher  
15   pressure than normal pipelines and at a temperature  
16   higher than normal.

17                  I wish that some of the veterans were  
18   still here.

19                  According to -- in a study funded by the  
20   Rockefeller Foundation, a group of retired four star  
21   generals and admirals concluded that climate change,  
22   if not addressed, will be the greatest threat to  
23

1     national security. It's going to make us better at,  
2     you know, buying gasoline.

3             According to an independent analysis, U.S.  
4     farmers, who spent \$12.4 billion on fuel in 2009,  
5     could see expenses rise to \$15 billion or higher in  
6     2012 or 2013 if the pipeline goes through.

7             In the first quarter of 2011 Valero  
8     exported 65,000 barrels per day of gasoline to Mexico  
9     and South America and 165,000 barrels per day of  
10    diesel exports to Europe and Latin America.

11            We're in a tax zone here. Valero loves  
12    it. They're in a tax zone here. They're going to be  
13    one of the top beneficiaries of the Keystone XL  
14    Pipeline. And they've recently explicitly detailed  
15    an export strategy to its investors.

16            The nation's top refiner has locked in at  
17    least 20 percent of the pipeline's capacity. And  
18    because it's at a refinery in Port Arthur -- is  
19    within a foreign trade zone -- the company will  
20    accomplish its export strategy tax-free.

21            I'd like to end by sharing with you what  
22    Bill Clessey, who's the --

1                   MS. COLEMAN: I'm sorry, ma'am, we're just  
2 out of time. Is it possible for you to put that at  
3 the table?

4                   MS. MOORE: Well, I mean the ground rules  
5 were three minutes to five minutes. I'd like to have  
6 my three minutes. That's the ground rules that you  
7 all put out here.

8                   MS. COLEMAN: No. We've gone down now  
9 because we want to get everybody in before the end of  
10 the evening.

11                  MS. MOORE: Then you should --

12                  MS. COLEMAN: We're down to two minutes  
13 now.

14                  MS. MOORE: Then you should have had two  
15 minutes in here.

16                  MS. COLEMAN: I'm sorry?

17                  MS. MOORE: You should have had two  
18 minutes in here.

19                  So anyway --

20                  MS. COLEMAN: So please, I'm --

21                  MS. MOORE: -- he has said that they're  
22 going to be exporting it. So it's not going to help  
23



1     our economy.

2                   MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you, ma'am.  I'm  
3     sorry.  We just have to get a few more people here.

4                   Number 104, is it?

5                   MR. COODY:  Yes, 104.

6                   MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you.

7                   MR. COODY:  My name is John Coody, C-o-o-  
8     d-y.  I'm president of Pipefitters Local 211 in  
9     Houston, Texas.

10                   What I've been listening for over the  
11     hours is all the pros and cons.  We've lost five  
12     million manufacturing jobs overseas.  Our tax base  
13     went to nothing.  And we're almost bankrupt.

14                   Now we've got a lot of internet  
15     information, a lot of good stuff out.

16                   Now personally I believe the engineers.  
17     I've lived in the Houston area; we'll be getting some  
18     of the oil.  Our air is getting better.

19                   Every time we bring something down that's  
20     higher in acid, we're going to have to take the acid  
21     out.  It's all jobs.  It's all related to jobs, jobs,  
22     jobs.

23

1                   Now I know the Sierra groups are very  
2   important; they're very concerned.  If it wasn't for  
3   them we wouldn't have the Clean Air Act, which the  
4   unions support, if we wouldn't have had that  
5   movement.

6                   Now at break time I know they're concerned  
7   about the air because we had to move -- pipefitters -  
8   - from their area because their cigarette smoke was  
9   contaminating us.  So we understand their situation.

10                  (Applause.)

11                  MR. COODY:  But my question is:  Are we  
12   going to spend our time as a workforce, our nation  
13   going down with our politicians up there fighting  
14   over nothing while our country drains.

15                  So you go back -- President Obama is our  
16   president.  But those people that sit in that  
17   Congress and turn our words around and twist our  
18   words, these good people over here that mean well, us  
19   workers mean well.  We want it.  Make it happen.  
20   Let's go to work.

21                  MS. COLEMAN:  Thank you very much.  Thank  
22   you for your comments.  I appreciate it.

23

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. COLEMAN: Number 105. 105?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. COLEMAN: 106, please. 106?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. COLEMAN: 107.

7 MR. BAKER: 108.

8 MS. COLEMAN: 108? Excellent. Thank you.

9 MR. BAKER: Thank you. My name is Mark

10 Baker, B-a-k-e-r. I live in Lamar, Texas. I'm a  
11 proud member, business agent of Pipefitters' Local  
12 Union 211 in Houston, Texas.

13 The United Association offers a five-year  
14 apprenticeship program which offers quality people in  
15 training. And they encourage the training of  
16 veterans, national Americans, and other origins as  
17 well.

18 With that, I would like to just make the  
19 statement that I think that the point was made today  
20 that the problem largely was emissions. And I don't  
21 think that the answer is to cut off oil. I think  
22 that the answer is tighter restrictions on emissions

23

1 controls and possibly higher penalties for the  
2 companies that are doing these things, or doing these  
3 violations.

4 With that, I would like to say also that I  
5 think that it is an atrocity right now that we've got  
6 young men and women that are defending this nation in  
7 foreign countries, including on August the first, his  
8 birthday, my youngest son boarded a plane for Kuwait  
9 to begin his second tour in Iraq. While he's over  
10 there his job will be pulling security to make sure  
11 that the other troops get out of Iraq. And I hope  
12 that he completes that -- hope and pray to God that  
13 he completes that tour.

14 Now with that, I find it an atrocity that  
15 many -- and largely these veterans are coming home to  
16 have to find jobs working at McDonald's, Wal-Mart,  
17 places that offers absolutely no career at all. And  
18 I think that that's just terrible.

19 So the statement that I'm trying to make  
20 is is that if our government doesn't try to find a  
21 way to promote employment -- and I am for this  
22 pipeline -- we need to promote the employment of

1     these people, men and women that are going to be  
2     returning from the foreign countries defending our  
3     nation. And if we don't do that, we're not a patch  
4     on the ancestors that built this country to the  
5     greatness that it is today.

6                     (Applause.)

7                     MS. COLEMAN: Thank you for your comments.  
8     I appreciate it.

9                     (Applause.)

10                    MS. COLEMAN: Number 109.

11                    (No response.)

12                    MS. COLEMAN: 110.

13                    MR. CHARLES: 110.

14                    MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

15                    MR. CHARLES: My name is Gary Charles,  
16     Local 211 pipefitter. I heard a union man talk about  
17     -- and he was boasting about the skill level. But  
18     I'm here to let you know that all unions, we are  
19     professional, just as professional as anybody that's  
20     in this room or in Washington.

21                    A wise man told me that --

22                    (Applause.)

23

1                   MR. CHARLES: -- fault is never in the  
2   land; it's always in the man.

3                   You're looking at a father of six, ages 20  
4   to 14. I'm also a man without a job. You're looking  
5   at a man that is willing to work. But with no jobs  
6   here, how can I work?

7                   Since June 10th I have not worked. And  
8   life is still happening. I thank God for my  
9   landlord, who has taken a hit on his property by  
10   lowering the rent so I can make the bills and pay as  
11   much as I can.

12                  I thank God that the electric company has  
13   now jumped on board. And since I wasn't able to pay  
14   my lights on time, I had to result to prepaid  
15   electricity.

16                  It's time that Washington stops strangling  
17   the public for votes and do what is right.

18                  The Green Party, they need to stay in  
19   their lane. They know from all the problems that  
20   we're having right now that it's not right.

21                  This is not a right-now fix; look at the  
22   long term. Look at how long these plants have been

23

1 up and running. I'm pretty sure that Greenpeace has  
2 something to say against them. But they're still up  
3 and they're still running. I've worked in them.  
4 We've revamped them. We did everything that we could  
5 to keep the people working.

6 And I'm pretty sure if this pipeline comes  
7 down through here it will be the same thing. It's  
8 going to have to be maintained. Those are long-term  
9 jobs.

10 I believe God. I believe him at his word.  
11 He said he'll never leave and never forsake us. And  
12 I believe he's going to massage the hearts and the  
13 minds of the decision makers and they're going to  
14 approve this job.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. CHARLES: It will create jobs.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, sir.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. COLEMAN: Number 111.

20 MR. DRACOS: Yes.

21 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

22 MR. DRACOS: Steve Dracos. That's D-r-a-

23

1 c-o-s.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you.

3 MR. DRACOS: I was at the other hearing  
4 about a year ago. And I was going to not speak at  
5 this one. But the same group that was at the Houston  
6 hearing drive all the way over here and said the same  
7 dang things they said a year ago.

8 I think, by the way, in other permit  
9 hearings that are handled by the FERC, the people  
10 that follow these hearings and just speak over and  
11 over, they get to speak last. Okay? So I think you  
12 all need to expedite that.

13 The other thing is the oil. We've talked  
14 about -- anyway, there's a whole lot of things about  
15 the people that work in the oil, we're kind of fools,  
16 big oil is bad, you know, refinery air is dirty.

17 We're talking about a pipeline here. And  
18 I don't think you all have the -- I don't know, but  
19 maybe I'm wrong -- I don't think you all have the  
20 authority to just circumvent existing permits. These  
21 refineries work and operate within the law. The tar  
22 sands works within the law in their country. And I

23



1 think you need to respect the laws of the states and  
2 the other countries.

3 The last thing is the oil. It's a big  
4 world. They're out there finding oil everywhere.  
5 They're finding heavy oil everywhere. There's a one  
6 million barrel a day heavy oil project coming online  
7 in Saudi Arabia.

8 Now I think 9/11 wasn't that long ago.  
9 But I can tell you what: I'd rather have my oil come  
10 from Canada.

11 MS. COLEMAN: All right. Thank you.

12 MR. DRACOS: Thank you.

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much.  
14 Appreciate it.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Number --

17 MR. WILLIAMSON: James Williamson.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Number 112?

19 MR. WILLIAMSON: W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s-o-n.

20 I'm the business manager for the  
21 Pipefitters Local 195 here in Beaumont, Texas.

22 The first thing, Canada, you know, they're  
23

1     one of our greatest allies. They've been with us  
2     through thick and thin. We want their oil from our  
3     brothers and sisters from the north.

4                 We need oil independence from the Mideast.  
5     195 Pipefitters backs all the workers and the plant  
6     managers of all the local plants here.

7                 You know, we're as green as anybody  
8     environmentally. When we build something we build it  
9     right and safe for the environment.

10                There are pipelines all across this United  
11     States. This would be the safest yet.

12                We plead that the State Department  
13     expedite this permit as soon as possible. Let's do  
14     the right thing, what America needs. Our country  
15     needs oil and our local refineries, to help our  
16     troops and to help our nation.

17                Pipelines are a beautiful thing. I love  
18     the wind and the sun and the sunshine just like the  
19     tree-huggers. I believe this pipeline will blend  
20     very well.

21                We need all the resources. We need it to  
22     be built by union people.

23

1                   These laborers here are trained. They've  
2    been here working all day long. They've worked their  
3    butts off and stood up for what's right. All these  
4    other people have showed up all day and done what's  
5    right.

6                   And we need you all to do what's right and  
7    get this passed for America.

8                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you --

9                   MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

10                  MS. COLEMAN: -- for your thoughts. Thank  
11    you very much.

12                  (Applause.)

13                  MS. COLEMAN: Number 113, please.

14                  (No response.)

15                  MS. COLEMAN: 114?

16                  (No response.)

17                  MS. COLEMAN: 115?

18                  (No response.)

19                  MS. COLEMAN: 116? I see...

20                  MR. CROTTS: My name is Tanif, T-a-n-i-f,  
21    Crotts, C-r-o-t-t-s.

22                  I'd like to further the gentlemen earlier

23

1 in support of this pipeline. You know, he was  
2 talking about petroleum-based products. But he  
3 didn't get down to the chairs, the water bottles,  
4 everything that touches the lives that is petroleum-  
5 based that would be better served with this pipeline  
6 coming in.

7 I just want to say that I support it. And  
8 I'll yield my time.

9 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you so much. I  
10 appreciate it. We appreciate it.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. COLEMAN: Number 117.

13 MR. MCCORMICK: Michael McCormick.

14 If you can't spell McCormick you've got to  
15 be a foreigner.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

18 MR. MCCORMICK: Okay. We the people need  
19 this pipeline to help the United States citizens get  
20 jobs and be able to keep their homes, not live in  
21 poverty, so many more children are not homeless.  
22 Hopefully, no foreign or illegals will be working on  
23

1       these jobs.

2                   If we get it, put the United States  
3       citizens to work, it is a win-win situation to keep  
4       the money here at home to help dig this country out  
5       of a hole that some of these politicians have put us  
6       in. We have the best skilled labor in the United  
7       States and as a matter of fact in the world because  
8       we built a lot of these refineries overseas and in  
9       the United States and run pipelines all over the  
10      world.

11                   We need this pipeline to help pull us  
12      through these rough times.

13                   And may God bless this country.

14                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for  
15      your comments.

16                   (Applause.)

17                   MS. COLEMAN: 118.

18                   (No response.)

19                   MS. COLEMAN: 119.

20                   (No response.)

21                   MS. COLEMAN: 120.

22                   (No response.)

23

1 MS. COLEMAN: 121.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. COLEMAN: 122.

4 (No response.)

5 MS. COLEMAN: 123.

6 MR. COPE: Bingo.

7 MS. COLEMAN: 123. All right. Thank you  
8 very much.

9 MR. COPE: Thank you very much. My name  
10 is Eddie Cope. That's C-o-p-e, E-d-d-i-e.

11 I come before you today -- I appreciate  
12 you guys hearing everybody here today.

13 I'm just a small businessman here in  
14 southeast Texas. I own and operate the local Avis  
15 and Budget Rent a Car here in the area at the  
16 airport.

17 And I just want to be -- I would like to  
18 say I support the pipeline; anything they can do for  
19 this area and all along the way. I believe that the  
20 jobs will be there not only short-term but long-term.

21 Of course, this pipeline is not going to  
22 fix the world, and it's not going to kill it either.

23

1 I've been here in -- I've been in the Houston area 35  
2 years and been out here and the plants have been  
3 there operating. I think the air has gotten cleaner  
4 with the guidelines.

5 I do like the environmentalists to stay on  
6 top of that for us, stay on top of the government.  
7 And make higher fines for the things that happen that  
8 shouldn't and protect us and my kids and my  
9 grandkids.

10 But we need the jobs here. And I just  
11 support the pipeline. And I appreciate you guys  
12 being here.

13 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much. I  
14 appreciate your comments.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COLEMAN: Number 124.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. COLEMAN: Number 125.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. COLEMAN: Actually, and anyone else  
21 who was going to speak, could you please come down to  
22 the microphone, because we're getting close to the  
23

1       end and this will help us to be efficient.

2                   Thank you very much.

3                   MS. RAMIREZ:   Hi.   My name is Carolina  
4   Ramirez.   That's C-a-r-o-l-i-n-a R-a-m-i-r-e-z.

5                   I came here against the Keystone Pipeline.  
6   I'm 22 years old.   I grew up here in Port Arthur,  
7   Texas.   I live I'd say about ten miles from here.  
8   And I seriously ask the State Department to check out  
9   about the health risks if this pipeline were built  
10   because I have lived here so many years and both of  
11   my parents have been diagnosed with cancer.

12                   This does not happen every day.   And this  
13   is not normal.   So I seriously ask you because a lot  
14   of my neighbors, a lot of my friends, a lot of my  
15   fellow classmates have suffered the same thing.

16                   One of my friends from high school, he  
17   died of leukemia.   It was unexplained.

18                   So I seriously ask you to take this into  
19   consideration for the future, for the future of the  
20   students, for your kids.   I seriously ask you to take  
21   consideration about the future because I really want  
22   a clean Port Arthur and I want a clean earth.

23



1                   So thank you for listening to me. And  
2   once again, I'm against the pipeline.

3                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
4   comments. Thank you.

5                   Number 126.

6                   Thank you.

7                   MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon. My name  
8   is Juan Rodriguez, J-u-a-n R-o-d-r-i-g-u-e-z.

9                   I live in Port Arthur, Texas. I was born  
10   in Port Arthur, Texas. Actually, I came to school in  
11   Port Arthur, Texas. Also, more than half of the  
12   students in PAIS have asthma. I am diagnosed with  
13   asthma. My sister is diagnosed with asthma. My  
14   other four sisters are diagnosed with asthma.

15                   There's five siblings in the family and  
16   all of us are diagnosed with asthma. Does that tell  
17   you something?

18                   Also, my grandfather was recently  
19   diagnosed with cancer. It's unexplainable.

20                   It's sad that you guys would rather put,  
21   you know, rather receive money than put your  
22   children's life in risk. It's sad that the fact

23

1     that, you know, you'd rather lose money than a  
2     person's life.

3             Like, come on, now. It's common sense. A  
4     pipeline that's going to cause so much -- the  
5     environment -- it's going to mess up more the  
6     environment than what it is. Let's just -- that's  
7     pretty sad, actually.

8             And, oh, yeah, I'm against the pipeline.

9             And thank you.

10            MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
11     comments. I appreciate it.

12            Now 127.

13            (No response.)

14            MS. COLEMAN: 128.

15            (No response.)

16            MS. COLEMAN: 129.

17            (No response.)

18            MS. COLEMAN: 130.

19            (No response.)

20            MS. COLEMAN: Is there anyone else? We're  
21     pretty much close to the end.

22            Okay. We have a gentleman here. Okay.

23

1 MR. NEIGHBOR: Hi.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Hi.

3 MR. NEIGHBOR: My name is Doug Neighbor,  
4 N-e-i-g-h-b-o-r.

5 MS. COLEMAN: Okay.

6 MR. NEIGHBOR: I'm kind of new to the area  
7 so, you know, I haven't heard much about the Keystone  
8 XL Pipeline until about three days ago. And so I  
9 haven't read the EIS. And I don't want to quote  
10 anything out of that.

11 But, you know what I find interesting is  
12 that, you know, there's going to be seven billion  
13 dollars spent just on putting the pipeline in. I  
14 don't know if anybody's run the numbers, but that's a  
15 lot of, you know, megawatts that could be reduced by  
16 renewable energy as opposed to just spending seven  
17 billion dollars to transport oil. That doesn't  
18 include, you know, the extraction costs,  
19 transportation costs, refinement costs,  
20 transportation to ship it off -- out of our country.

21 What I see it as is 1700 miles of  
22 opportunity for something to go wrong.

23

1                   You know, you've heard the phrase 'buy  
2   local.' Well, I'm for that: keep it local. Keep it  
3   in Canada.

4                   If Canada wants to export oil then they  
5   should keep the pipeline in their country and they  
6   should live with all the environmental consequences  
7   with it.

8                   Thank you.

9                   MS. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for your  
10   comments.

11                   (Applause.)

12                   MS. COLEMAN: Sir, thank you.

13                   MR. RAMIREZ: Fernando Ramirez, F-e-r-n-a-  
14   n-d-o, the last name is R-a-m-i-r-e-z. I live in  
15   Port Arthur, right next to some of the refineries.

16                   First of all, I want to thank the young  
17   students that spoke before me. I have mentored them  
18   in the school. So I'm very proud that they came and  
19   spoke their minds today. Thank you.

20                   Unfortunately, we are on different sides  
21   of the discussion. I support the pipeline.

22                   I came here not to speak but to see what  
23

1     it was about. And what I find is this is the problem  
2     that's keeping America back: when you have people  
3     that call themselves American, they want to make  
4     America work, want to supply America but they fight  
5     each other. They keep each other from getting to the  
6     goal, working together to find the solution.

7                 That's the problem, not the solution.  
8     Because I'll tell you what: I am on some of the CAPs  
9     for some of the refineries -- Citizen Advisory Panel  
10    -- and we keep their feet to the fire.

11                I know these people. They're going to do  
12    the right thing because that's what they do. They  
13    live here; that's where they work. Just like the  
14    union workers: We live in this area. We're going to  
15    do the right thing. And we can tell it by the  
16    cleaner air that we breathe.

17                Yes, there's going to be problems. But if  
18    we work together we can clean them up.

19                Thank you all very much.

20                MS. COLEMAN: All right. Thank you very  
21    much.

22                (Applause.)

23

1                   MS. COLEMAN: On our sign-in list, that  
2       was the number of speakers. If there is anyone else  
3       we left out or who wants to speak? But otherwise, we  
4       wanted to have people's names on the sign-up list.  
5       So I think we're done.

6                   And again, we want to express deep  
7       appreciation for your patience, your participation.  
8       As some participant said, this is a wonderful example  
9       of American Democracy and civic participation. We're  
10      very grateful to you.

11                  So have a good evening. Thank you.

12                  (Applause.)

13                  (Whereupon, at 9:49 p.m., the public  
14      meeting in the above-entitled matter was adjourned.)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21